

Israeli planes kill 100 civilians, says Lebanon

Israel sent waves of warplanes to bomb targets in southern Lebanon yesterday. At least 100 civilians died in the raids which levelled two villages. Israel said the air assault—against terrorist targets only—was a reprisal for rocket attacks on a coastal town.

Revenge raids after rocket attacks

From Mairine Howe

Beirut, Nov 9

Israeli warplanes wined out

two villages, killing at least 100

civilians, during massive bomb-

Lebanon.

The air raids also hit three

Palestinian refugee camps and

the port city of Tyre, killing

many civilians and causing

widespread damage. Only three

Palestinian commandos were

killed in the operation, accord-

ing to official Palestinian

sources.

Mr Muad Burus, the Leban-

ese Foreign Minister, in a

national television address

strongly deplored the Israeli

“aggression” and said that

Lebanon was doing everything

possible to deal with the situa-

tion.

President Elias Sarkis met Mr

Richard Parker, the United

States Ambassador, apparently

in an attempt to enlist Ameri-

can help to reacivate the cease-

fire in southern Lebanon.

United States embassies in

Beirut, Damascus and Tel Aviv

had been instrumental in

arranging the ceasefire, which

went into effect on September

25 in the Israeli-Lebanese bor-

der area and was broken by an

artillery duel last weekend

between Israeli-backed Leban-

ese Christians and Palestinian

Lebanese leftist forces.

Western diplomatic sources

here generally believed the

Israeli air raids were deliberate

overreaction to two Palestinian

rocket attacks on the Israeli

resort of Nahariya, in which

three Israelis were killed.

However, Lebanese ruling

circles considered that the

Israeli action was aimed at

undermining efforts of Presi-

dent Sarkis and President Assad

of Syria and the Palestinian

Liberation Organization to reach

a settlement on the Palestinian

presence in the Israeli border

area.

The Israeli bombers carried

out repeated raids against civil-

ian targets in and around Tyre

between 8 and 10 am, according

to the Lebanese national news

agency.

The village of Azziyah and a

neighbouring hamlet five miles

north of the Israeli border were

completely razed, according to

official sources. Forty-five

bodies have been recovered, all

of them Lebanese, and it was

believed there were more in

the ruins.

Lebanese officials said that

13 civilians were killed in Tyre

and two more in Nahariya.

The Palestinian news agency

announced that a squadron of

Israeli Phantoms bombed

the Palestinian refugee camps

of Buri el-Shamali, Rasbidiyah

and al-Bass in the Tyre area.

Witnesses said that at least 30

bodies were removed from rubble

in Buri el-Shamali and the

number of dead was

believed to be as many as 100.

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HOME NEWS

Pressure by local authorities has weakened ministry of guidance on homelessness

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

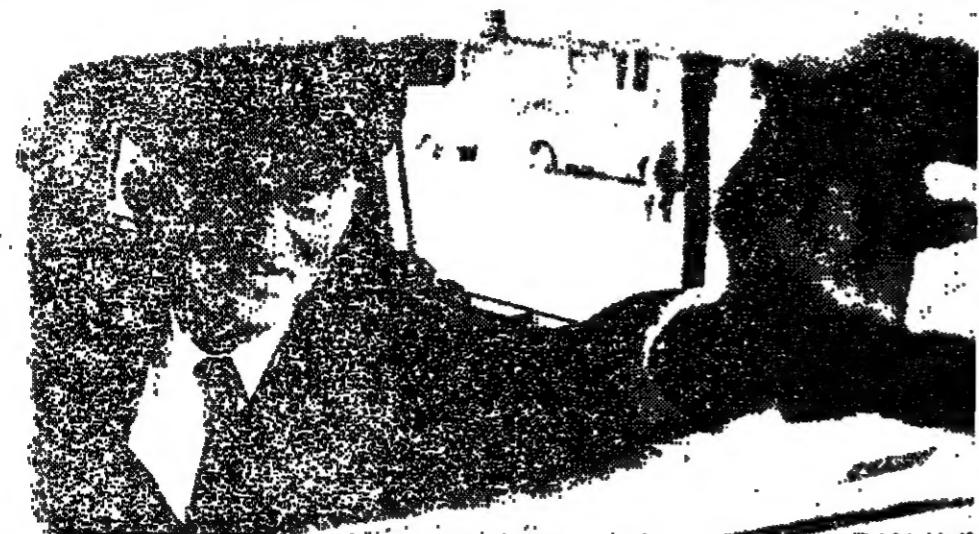
Pressure from local authority associations has weakened the new code of guidance to be published on Monday under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act.

The final draft, which the code is understood to follow closely, no longer emphasizes the Government's view that bed and breakfast should be used for homeless families only as a last resort, nor does it emphasize as strongly as earlier versions that homeless families must be given permanent accommodation as soon as possible.

Most crucially, the final draft has deleted the statement of principles first made in a 1974 circular which the Government issued to try to persuade local authorities to change their policies towards the homeless.

The first draft code echoed the circular in saying: "Homelessness is almost always the extreme form of housing need for any family or individual. All those who are homeless should be helped to secure accommodation by advice, by preventive action or by the provision of some form of accommodation."

Also excluded is the statement that for priority groups "the issue is not whether, but by what means, a housing authority should secure that accommodation is available".



Mr Henry Hall: secrets of a chauffeur in a burry.

A driving force is recognized

By Peter Hennessy

Any Russian spy worth his roubles would be wise to concentrate his attentions not only on the Cabinet Ministers and Whiles in the Secret Intelligence Service but on the splendid body of men and women who make up the drivers of the government car pool. For the acquisition of gossip and hard information they are in a position second to none.

Mr Henry Hall, dozen of the car pool, who received the Imperial Service Medal from Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday, refuses, like the old soldier he is, to

accept that proposition ("I would stake my life on 90 per cent of the lads here").

Mr Hall, who retired last May, began working life as a groom in the Royal Engineers. Once, when he had a "bull and a cow" (row) with Lord Carrington's detective, about smoking in the car, the policeman threatened to reveal it to the Secretary of State, his guilty secret. Mr Hall, he maintained, had never lost the habit of grooming only the side of the horse upon which the officer mounted. Lord Carrington's side of the car would gleam in the sunlight while the other half was caked with mud.

"Of course, when you are in a hurry you clean only his side of the car. But I always groomed both sides of the horse; the horse came first," Mr Hall insisted yesterday.

Apart from teaching Lord Carrington rhyming slang, Mr

Hall provided him with much diversion. Lord C., or "the man" as Mr Hall calls him, was due to travel from engagement at Grosvenor House to Madame Tussaud's "To the Chamber of Horrors, Hall," he said as he climbed in. Forgetting the original instruction, Mr Hall drove him to the House of Lords. Lord Carrington dined out on the story for months.

Another minister of whom he has fond memories is Mr Mason, now Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. "He was always telling you about the mines and Barnsley bitter. He used to give black pudding and butter to the miners at parties. That kind of it."

Mr Hall remains beloved in Whitehall. As Mr Mulley said at the presentation, it sometimes seemed that Mr Hall, driver, counsellor and friend to the mighty, actually ran the ministry as well.

Child poverty 'worse under Labour'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government is likely to go into the next election facing the accusation that child families have become poorer under Labour. Mr Frank Field, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said yesterday.

Mr Field, who was criticized for helping to tumble Labour in 1970 by accusing it of making the poor poorer, said that, failing a big increase in child benefits next April, a new campaign showing how all families had become poorer would be launched. So far the net weekly gain to families of the last two Budgets was only 30p a child.

Giving the Quetta Raby Memorial Lecture at Southwark College, Mr Field said children had received only £330m of the £3,500m handed out in tax concessions.

Since 1974 the index had risen from 100 to 151 for a single person, to 168 for a married couple, but to only 145 for a family with four children. Discrimination against families was evident.

Families with children had incomes only marginally higher than those of single people once the net effects of tax and benefits were taken into account.

£5m allocated for urgent repairs to waterways

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The Government is to allocate £5m to the British Waterways Board for urgently needed repairs and maintenance, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the Commons yesterday. It will form part of the £400m that Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, earmarked for the construction industry in this statement last week.

In reply to a question by Mr Kenneth Weetech, Labour MP for Ipswich, Mr Shore said the board had not been able, within its available financial resources, to comply fully with its statutory and other obligations.

A report released yesterday recommended that about £3m should be spent in the next three years in the interests of public safety.

The reference to public safety must be taken to imply that the Government is seriously concerned about the risk of breaches and consequent flooding from nineteenth-century canals and reservoirs, which have, at best, received only slight attention.

In the report, by a firm of

private consultants, Peter Fraenkel and Partners, arrears of maintenance are assessed at £57,300 up to the end of 1977 at 1974 prices (equivalent to about £60m today). Future costs put at £79m up to 1989 (again in 1974 prices) and £8.5m annually thereafter, which Mr Shore described as very substantial sums.

The report observes that by far the largest item in the arrears of maintenance is the need for bank protection. To avoid erosion and disintegration some form of protective revetment is clearly necessary, and half of those revetments require replacement or repair.

The report concludes that there is scope for dealing with two or three times the present volume of freight traffic in craft able to use the present locks. But on cruising waterways there are already signs of congestion in certain places at peak periods and if the present rate of growth continues relief facilities might become necessary.

A two-year delay to the report was due to uncertainty caused by the publication of consultative documents and a White Paper on the reorganization of the water industry, the Department of the Environment said.

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breaches and consequent flooding from nineteenth-century canals and reservoirs, which have, at best, received only slight attention.

In the report, by a firm of

Payments 'necessary in Middle East to get sales'

Commission payments to secure overseas sales are absolutely necessary in some Middle East countries, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Sir Lester Suffield, former head of the Ministry of Defence sales organization and formerly with British Leyland, said, however, that there would never be any question of a British company's paying commission to the British Government to further sales.

Lieutenant-Colonel David Randell, aged 40, of the Royal Signals, Aldershot; Geoffrey Welburn, aged 40, of Woodside Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire; and Frank Norton, aged 60, of Barnet Road, Arkley, Hertfordshire, all deny corruption charges.

Fund-matching plan for community cooperatives

From Ronald Faux

Inverness

Community cooperatives to inject local industry into the Western Isles are to be encouraged by the Highlands and Islands Development Board. The board announced yesterday that about £100,000 would be available to help people to reuse the benefits of their own resources provided they presented soundly based schemes.

There had been no suggestion, or hint as far as he knew, of Mr Norton or Ralal being concerned in anything like that in Britain.

He was not aware of any payments made to officials of foreign countries by the Crown agents, Millbank Technical Services.

The trial continues today.

necessary organization. Professor Kenneth Alexander, chairman of the board, said:

"This will not be an easy job. It is a long-term programme which, if proved worthwhile, will strengthen the islands' social and economic fabric."

Such cooperatives had not been attempted in Scotland, although they were operating in Ireland. The schemes were not confined to one activity but could cover hotels, knitwear factories, market gardens, and the provision of services and organization of social facilities.

The cooperatives might also be eligible for grant aid and other normal assistance through the board's loan scheme.

A handbook in English and Gaelic has been published, giving the details of the scheme.

BOC

Have you been affected by the industrial dispute at BOC?

If so you will be glad to know that we are beginning to resume deliveries of industrial gases. We are, however, faced with an enormous backlog of demand and it may take some weeks before we are completely up to date.

To help us make the return to normal as quick and painless as possible, we ask for your help and patience in the following ways.

Please tolerate deliveries at odd times

We'll be running overtime delivery shifts to cope with the abnormal load so we shall ask you if you would accept deliveries out of working hours or at weekends but only if it is convenient to you.

Please do not stock-pile

however tempting it may be. We will be able to restore normal deliveries more quickly if you order only what you need.

Please return as many empties as you can

You won't lose out on future supplies. You'll be entitled to full cylinders in exchange later as soon as they become available.

We should like to thank you for your understanding and support and ask you for continued patience for just a few more weeks.

NatWest opens in Aberdeen.

Recognising the growing importance of Aberdeen internationally, National Westminster Bank is pleased to be able to offer its worldwide service as well as local banking facilities through the new Branch at 262 Union Street.

Enquiries on the many services available will be very welcome.

Manager: Grahame Yule. Telephone: (0224) 26364.

Other branches in Scotland

Edinburgh:

80 George Street

Telephone: 031-226 6181

Glasgow:

14 Blythswood Square

Telephone: 041-204 1491

Manager:

Malcolm V. Fortune.

Manager:

Roy W. Seager.

National Westminster Bank

HOME NEWS

Rules on architects' fee scales 'against the public interest'

By John Huxley

Business News Staff

Rules that prevent architects and surveyors from quoting competitive fees, are acting against the public interest, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission concludes in two reports published yesterday.

The commission was satisfied that "more than a third of architects' and surveyors' services were supplied by those who calculated fees according to an agreed scale and thereby conducted their affairs as to restrict competition".

It says that fee scales, in particular those determined by the suppliers of services and supported by rules prohibiting competition, could not be relied on to produce a charge reasonable in relation to the amount of work and skills involved in any one job.

For most valuation and property management services the variety of circumstances made it difficult to apply scales of fees.

Rules of associations that prevented competitive quotation of fees deprived clients of the opportunity to obtain comparative estimates. Thus fees were maintained at a higher level than they might otherwise be.

[A statement from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection said that Mr Hattersley, the Secretary of State for Fair Trading, would ask the Director General of Fair Trading to investigate the matter and to recommend amendments to the rules governing fee scales.]

Mr Fraser, Minister of State at the department, said Mr Hattersley expected to receive the recommendations within six months.

The report, the result of a four-year study by the commission, recommend that the professional bodies should abolish rules requiring members to adhere to fee scales. Instead, they should be allowed to quote freely in competition.

On architects, the commission concludes that "the system of mandatory scales, together with rules which prevent competition for business on the basis

Tenants pay up rent after bailiffs move in

From Arthur Osman

Droitwich

of fees, operates against the public interest and should be brought to an end".

Recommended scales, the commission suggests, should be determined by an independent committee comprising a chairman and three or four members appointed by the Government. The same committee might conveniently perform similar duties in relation to recommended scales of charges for some surveyors' services.

The fee-scale structure of architects, based on a percentage of the cost of works, has long been a subject of controversy. Yesterday's report is a contribution to a debate that began in 1957 when the Government decided to refer the level of architects' costs and fees to the National Board for Prices and Incomes.

The board's report, published a year later, recommended that the fee scale should not be mandatory and that an independent review body should draw up a recommended scale.

Negotiations were begun with the Royal Institute of British Architects on the basis of the board's recommendations, but an impasse was reached on the suggested that the fee scale should not be mandatory. The Government decided that the issue should be put in abeyance.

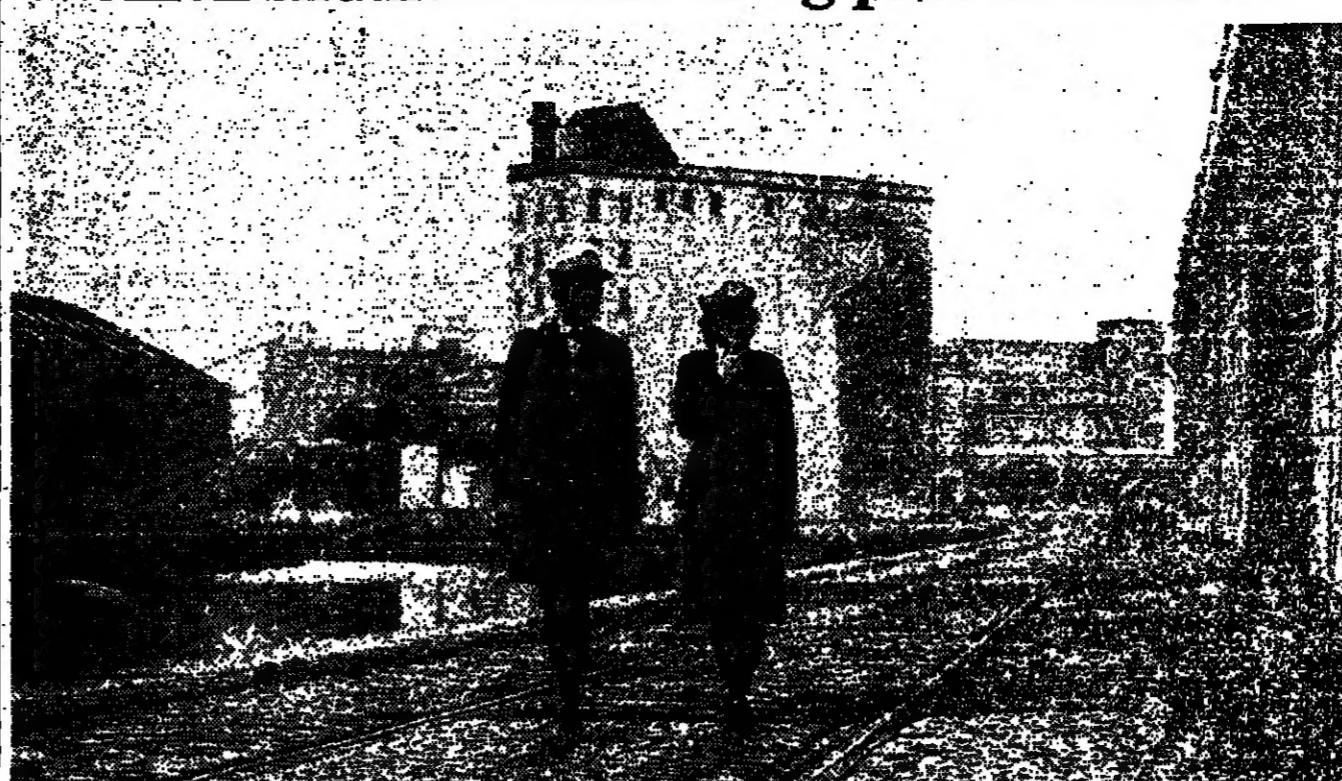
In evidence to the commission the institute, which represents the vast majority of architects in the United Kingdom, argued that abandonment of mandatory scales might lead to widespread fee-cutting, especially during a recession.

That, it was suggested, would have damaging effects on the supply of architects' services and on professional standards. The institute did concede that the commission's decision to impose mandatory scales might be implemented in its recommendations of charges.

It said it would be happy to see an independent review body set up if the commission reported in favour of retaining the mandatory fee scale.

Architects' Services and Surveyors' Services (Stationery Office, £2.85 each).

On the beat: 4 Sex Discrimination Act has integrated police duties Women shoulder increasing part of burden



Police Constables Jane Dawes and Vivien Edwards (holding radio) on patrol in Moss Side, Manchester.

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Over the past few days distress orders have been issued, most of them on the Boycott Estate in Droitwich. The population is mostly young and there is much unemployment. Social workers say the number of broken marriages is increasing because of poor job opportunities and the economic climate.

Rents vary between £12 and £14 a week and are said to be the highest in Wyckavon for three-storey houses.

The country's social services department was critical of the use of bailiffs and Mr Graham Godden, Shepherds' housing aid officer in the Midlands, protested to the Department of the Environment.

So far 64 of the 71 orders have been served and 20 recipients have paid off arrears; another 40 have reached an agreement with the bailiffs to pay off arrears at £25 and £10 a week after lower offers had been refused. One family had disappeared and two had had furniture dismantled.

Average arrears were about 10 weeks and Mr Godden said one man, who was more than £450 behind with his rent, had taken out a financial loan to clear it off and had got himself further into debt.

On Monday the council's housing committee reaffirmed its new policy and yesterday Mr J. W. Fisher, the housing manager, said: "The sort of situation we were involved in, for example, 12 visits in one case without any payment. Eventually my people got fed up and instructed me to employ bailiffs."

"It has had a remarkably salutary effect, with many of the 300 in arrears already coming forward to settle up, including the subject with child welfare experts.

Before yesterday's decision a petition signed by 295 social workers employed by the county council had called on the committee not to restore caning. Labour members of the committee called for a seminar to discuss the subject with child welfare experts.

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Unemployed youth 'fare better than most'

By Annabel Ferriman

Youth unemployment does not warrant greater public concern, intervention or cash than that of any other generation, according to a new survey by Political and Economic Planning published today.

Men in their thirties and forties with children suffer most from being out of work, and their families suffer with them. Employers should be subsidized to take them on, it says.

Its authors, a summary of whose findings are published in today's *News Society*, traced and reinterviewed people who were unemployed in 1973 and whom they had first talked to for their National Survey of the Unemployed that year.

When the samples were seen again in 1976 the older people were less likely to have had some work in the meantime and were more likely to have taken worse jobs than they had done previously.

The young had fared better than other people in every way. Where they were in work they had had by far the biggest increases in earnings, compared with their 1973 pay, and their jobs were likely to have been upgraded.

One striking fact that emerged was that they were very likely to have changed jobs. A quarter of those aged between 18 and 24 had three or more jobs in those three years. About 11 per cent had had five or more.

In the case of older men, those who were unskilled or semi-skilled and had more than one child, appeared to do worst of all. The authors suggest that child dependency allowances led them to seek higher levels of pay and therefore to be out of work longer.

In the PEP sample the family men aged between 25 and 54 were generally unskilled, low-paid when in work, prone to ill health or disabled. The factor that seemed to determine whether they found work in the three-year period appeared to be how many children they had, those with more children having worked less.

That led the authors to conclude that the level of dependency allowance is of the utmost importance and their conclusion will be supported by two other pieces of evidence.

First, PEP found both in 1973 and 1976 that the minimum pay requirements of those out of work were strongly related to the levels of their benefit incomes, while when married men with children had worked in the three-year period the level of pay had been consistently higher the more children they had.

The authors find these results disturbing in relation to public policy, because of the long-term effects on those out of work. While in the short term, some actions might be logical, in the long term those on unemployment benefit have no way of improving their income by overtime or promotion and their lives are often a constant battle to make ends meet.

The authors say one solution might be to subsidize jobs for the longer term, unskilled unemployed. Other possibilities include the introduction of a system of negative income tax. *Wages for Work* (see note) by W. Daniel and Elizabeth Sulzow, available from PEP, 12 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1X 8BB, £4, plus 25p postage and packing.

Our Political Correspondent writes: Present policies of the government on youth unemployment are too piecemeal when viewed against the background of EEC initiatives, the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities says in a report published yesterday.

"We would like to see an immediate commitment to a policy of school-based preparation for work and work-based continuation of education for all young people," it said. "This should be within the framework of overall economic policy aimed at full employment."

48th Report of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities: Youth Unemployment (Stationery Office, £1.50).

IF YOU SMELL GAS-RING US

WEST EUROPE

Overfishing by French reason for Norway bar on British ships

By Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent

A dispute is about to break out among EEC fishing nations, after British fishermen were ordered to leave the Arctic fishing grounds of north Norway at midnight last Saturday, because Community cod quotas had been exceeded.

The British Fishermen's claim that they still have 2,500 tonnes of their allocation of cod to catch has been rejected by the Norwegians, who have indicated that French vessels have already taken it. The British Fishing Federation is forecasting idle ships and higher unemployment and is demanding that Mr Siltkin, the Minister of Agriculture, ask the EEC for compensation.

A Federation spokesman said last night: "We are furious. Once again we have been playing the game and once again it looks as though we have been cheated."

Losing the cod catch which trawler companies had carefully planned to take them to the end of the year, when new quotas would be agreed, is doubly grievous because other EEC states are only permitted to fish in Norwegian waters in return for Britain allowing Norway to fish in British waters.

The spokesman said that Norway, frustrated by the EEC's inability to reach any agreement on fishing, had unilaterally set a total target of 54,800 tonnes of cod for the EEC in the Norwegian 200-mile zone west of the sixty-second parallel. "She blew the whistle on Saturday night when records showed that EEC trawlers had

caught 55,059 tonnes. It was confirmed in Oslo that EEC vessels would not be allowed to return this year," he said.

The EEC had decided that the 18,500 tonnes of cod left for the period between September 1 and the end of the year should comprise 13,000 tonnes for Britain, 3,200 tonnes for France and 2,300 tonnes for West Germany. Britain had caught just under 10,400 tonnes when the ban was imposed on Saturday, according to ministry records here. Norwegian records showed that France and West Germany had taken 8,500 tonnes, about 2,800 tonnes more than their joint quota.

The fishing federation spokesman said last night: "Norway has made no secret of the fact that the French are the culprits, although Norway's only concern is the total EEC quota. The implications are just beginning to sink in. There is nowhere else for the vessels to go. The first will be returning in the next few days and they will not go to sea again this year. Some 60 vessel trips have been lost and the chances are cod will be unobtainable by Christmas."

He continued: "When Mr Siltkin goes to Brussels for the next round of talks, idle ships bring our quota and shore workers swelling unemployment figures will provide eloquent proof of what we have been saying all along—quotas don't work. The rest of the world already knows that it seems Britain must suffer more than its fair share of social and economic misery before the EEC will accept reality."

Leading article, page 17

Bonn police take fancy to British armoured car

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Nov 9

The West German police are pressing for British armoured patrol cars to replace the for bidding and, they say, inadequate personnel carriers which make Bonn look like an occupied city.

The ugly tank-like SWIF's which guard certain Government buildings, embassies and ministers' homes against possible terrorist attacks are "torture chambers" for their occupants and a danger to traffic, the police union's North Rhine-Westphalian branch claims.

The crew, including the driver, can only get out of slits and a colleague has to climb up and down to move it to give directions. The SWIF's often fail and it is impossible to shoot accurately from inside the vehicle.

In winter the man on the turret freezes and in summer the steel-clad vehicle is like an oven. It leaks when raining and, for the same reason, is not

petrol-bomb proof, a union spokesman said.

The union is suggesting that the North Rhine-Westphalian government, which is in charge of police security in Bonn, should buy the Shorland Mk3 armoured patrol car, which was developed for police use in Northern Ireland.

Union representatives have examined models being used by the Dutch police at Amsterdam airport and are enthusiastic.

Its higher speed and mobility, lower consumption of fuel and greater range of action made it highly suitable for Bonn, they declared. For psychological reasons they also prefer its appearance—the Shorland looks like a modified Land Rover.

The SWIF's do not give a good impression and would like something less military," the spokesman added. No comment was available from the North Rhine-Westphalian Land Government but it was understood that they have also been making inquiries about the Shorland.

Paris bakers close in croissant war

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Nov 9

Orange notices on the locked doors of bakers' shops in Paris read today: "Bravo, M Barre. With the butter croissant at 1.20 (14p) and the chocolate roll at 1.30 you have succeeded in pulling France out of the crisis."

Locked doors of bakers' shops are a rare sight in France. They are the first to open and the last to close each day. They open on Sundays and holidays in every area according to an agreed rota like British chemists. Bread to a healthy Frenchman is at least as urgent a requirement as medicine for a sick Briton.

Today, however, most Parisians had to make do without their morning croissant and had to mop up their sauce at lunch with stale baguettes because nearly all the small bakers closed for the day in protest at the measures brought in by M Barre last week in an attempt to cut back the rising food prices.

Bakers were particularly hard hit by the measures which not only peg back the prices of seven of the most popular rolls and buns but lay down required standards for them to head off attempts to maintain profits by selling smaller products.

The small grocers, butchers and the cafés joined the protest

Sir Christopher Soames criticizes lack of information

Appeal for people to be told what EEC membership really means

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Nov 9

The present malaise in the European Community did not arise so much from its economic crisis or from the fact that member governments, especially those of the larger countries, refused to give it its due, Sir Christopher Soames, a vice-president of the Commission until the end of last year, said here today.

"They do not take into account the European dimension and tend to attribute all that is positive in it to their own action, and all that is negative to the Commission," he said at a luncheon given in his honour by the British Conservative Association in France. Sir Christopher was a former British Ambassador here.

"Neither through their actions nor through their rhetoric have governments set about explaining to their public what Europe is all about," Sir Christopher said. During his four years in Brussels, he was amazed how little time both the Conservative and Labour Parties had devoted to explaining the Community to the British people.

"When nothing is made clear about it, people cannot

understand; and when things go wrong, they tend to blame the Community." He believed that if Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister the Conservative government would explain things in European terms to the British people and he hoped the press would take its cue from them.

"Nationalistic habits have prevented us from making the most of the Community. So long as they persist, it is hard to give the Community the chance it deserves. If Europe is to remain in business, this must be changed. Otherwise it will be gradually eroded at the sea erodes the coast. What a waste, and what a contrast to the attitude towards the Community of those countries outside it," Sir Christopher said.

"The 81 British MPs to Strasbourg will talk essentially about European matters, not only at election time, but between elections. Even if they are anti-European when they first go up there, they will, as experience has shown, be converted to Europe afterwards and will come back and take European positions at home," Sir Christopher said.

"On the chances of Britain being ready to participate in European elections by next June, he said that the Government had changed its attitude to the issue. When the founders of Europe had not foreseen when the impact European elections would have on domestic politics. In France it would be avoided. It was not so certain in Britain.

Community membership of the Conservative had opened the European market to the Indian sub-continent, and if Russia

Terrorists 'prepare revenge for Mogadishu'

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Nov 9

West German terrorists, trained in Iraq, have returned to Europe for a campaign of revenge for the failure last month of the kidnapping of Dr Hans-Martin Schleyer and the weekly magazine Stern reported.

The terrorists are given basic training by the Iraqi Army, the report alleges, and then taken to camps outside Baghdad for special terrorist training.

Some are trained in a camp at Habbaniyah by Dr Ward Haddad, who is believed to be the head of the special operations section of the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and to have organized air hijackings.

The four people who hijacked the Lufthansa Boeing 737 with 87 people on board were trained in this camp, on a smaller aircraft lent by the Iraqi Airways, according to Stern.

Three groups of different nationalities are being prepared for the attack. The West Germans, who have been trained in Iraq have gone to Europe, possibly France, to await orders, according to the sources.

Elysée move to dispel nuclear energy fears

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Nov 9

An information council on nuclear energy is to be set up under the chairmanship of Mme Simone Veil, the Minister of Health.

The decision was made by the Cabinet today and is in line with President Giscard d'Estaing's view that the public should be better informed about the Government's long-term programme for the development of nuclear energy, which has been under increasing attack from ecologists and environmentalists. All will help to dispel fears of nuclear energy.

The Government hopes the work of the council will prevent a repetition of the violent clashes at Creys-Malville, in the Isere, at the end of July, where the Super Phoenix 1,200 megawatt fast-breeder reactor is being built.

President Giscard d'Estaing announced that the council would be established as a gesture to the ecologists, who are likely to play a decisive part in the coming elections, when he visited the national park of Les Ecrins in the Isere.

Today's Cabinet announcement means that "The implementation of the nuclear energy programme constitutes for this country, which is very short of energy resources, a national necessity and priority. But on this still new subject, the in-

formation of the public is generally inadequate. This leads to reactions of distrust and of fear towards the development of nuclear energy."

The council will be directly responsible to M. Veil, the Prime Minister. It will empower itself to consult scientific bodies and to hear evidence from any person it believes will help to dispel fears.

It will consist of a president, appointed for three years, four representatives of local authorities directly affected by the construction of nuclear power stations, and six representatives of environmentalists and ecologists. All will be appointed by the Prime Minister.

In addition to the members of the Academy of Sciences, one of the Academy of Medicine, and one of the Academy of Moral Sciences will be appointed by those bodies. Another four people with special expertise in the fields of energy, economics and communications, chosen by the Prime Minister, will also sit on the council.

It remains to be seen whether the council will be capable of silencing the growing misgivings against the nuclear programme. Twice in the past, the Monde pointed out, the government has promised to reveal everything about this programme, but it has not done so.

On the death in detention of Steve Biko in September, Mr Kruger was surprisingly forthcoming, considering that evidence is to be presented to an inquest next week. He insisted that his criticism of his department was ill-directed. "I do not think I could go a long way with him, but he took a direction really unacceptable to black power."

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He spoke at length about the letter he had had from black people urging him to stop the disruption of life in the African townships.

Emphasizing his dis-

OVERSEAS



Next round on Rhodesia may be held in Malta

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Paris, Nov 9

The idea of arranging a conference on Rhodesia to be held in Malta was attracting considerable attention yesterday, after a hint from talks from Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Rhodesian nationalist leader.

The Foreign Office said that Malta was one of the places mentioned by Field Marshal Lord Carver, the British Resident Commissioner designate, during his African tour which ended yesterday, but that no discussions on a date or a venue has been taken yet. Mr Nkomo was reported as saying in London that a meeting would take place "in a few days time on an island."

Malta has certain advantages for a Rhodesia conference, if all the parties agree, in being close to home and having good communications. Geneva, where the ill-fated conference met a year ago, is regarded as being too much of a diplomatic hotbed.

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, will confer with Lord Carver and also with Mr John Graham, the British diplomat who has been conducting the constitutional discussions this afternoon. He will then give an appraisal of the negotiations so far and announce the next steps when he opens the debate on the annual renewal of sanctions in the Commons tomorrow.

Despite the bad experience of Geneva, it seems that the Government is now in favour of a conference on Rhodesia, where all the main parties could meet round the same table. Certainly, to make soundings individually in Africa, as has been the procedure over the past few months, is very time-consuming. Dr Owen is anxious, above all, to speed up the talks, so as to reach the transition period in time for Rhodesia to become an independent state in 1978. Peter Hill writes from Lagos: Dr Owen is expected to receive a generally pessimistic briefing on prospects for an early move towards a Rhodesian settlement from Lord Carver.

Lord Carver, who completed his round of exploratory talks with a long meeting here today with Lieutenant-General Olusegun Obasanjo, the Nigerian head of state, said afterwards: "There is a long way to go but these proposals are accepted by both sides."

He said he would not be prepared to say that he was optimistic about the timetable for majority rule based on the Anglo-American proposals. To do so would be rather unrealistic. But he emphasized that in his round of talks he had not found any acceptable alternative solution. Big problems still remained to be resolved.

The most difficult and most important issue was the future of "the armed men on both sides" in the period of transition.

Graham today completed six days of discussions with African police officials and black nationalistic leaders by paying a courtesy call on Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister. No details of their talks were available.

The meetings have been held in secret but sources close to the negotiations said two hurdles lie in the way of the Anglo-American plan for a peaceful transition to black rule by the end of next year. They are: the make-up of a transitional government and maintenance of law and order during its life; and the type of franchise to be employed in electing a government.

Why a simple election is no longer enough page 16

Inquiry sought into dentist's death

By David Watts

Four hours after he was detained for questioning by police in Durban on August 3, Dr Hosen Haffejee, a "brilliant" young dentist of Indian extraction, was found dead.

The Durban police say that the dentist, who worked at the city's King George V Hospital, was held under the Criminal Proceedings Act for investigation under the Terrorism Act.

They say that he was arrested in the early hours of August 3 and hanged himself in his cell with one leg of his trousers.

His hospital colleagues say that he was absent from work throughout the previous day.

A hospital official said the dead man was a former patient who had previously tried to secure the woman patient's release. The hospital, a 25-year-old nurse, was said to be recovering from abrasions and stock.

The dentist's family heard of his death was when police came to the house to say he had committed suicide. Our reaction was

The doctor's flat was searched by a number of policemen for two hours. They took away a book, a pamphlet and some personal letters. When the family asked for permission to remove the body a police officer said they could not do so because it had no identity card.

When asked how the police could have arrested a man without an identity card, Dr Haffejee commented: "There is no evidence at all of police involvement. A man can damage his brain in many ways. There are all sorts of possibilities".

He dismissed fears of dictatorship, which was aimed at Africans and English South Africans alike. It would be a marvellous country, he said, "where these people (the Americans, Russians and OAU states) get off our back".

The only clue to police were able to agree on the method used to kill himself. Colonel Francois Seneckamp, the Durban police chief, said he had hanged himself by attaching one leg of his trousers to the door of his cell. Another officer said he had tied it to one of the bars on the window. When asked in a telephone call about this discrepancy, Col Seneckamp said: "I don't have to talk to you about this", and hung up.

Miss Rahim said she had spoken to Dr Haffejee on August 1, before his return to Durban and 48 hours before he died. He was happy, talked of his plans for the future and what they planned to do the following evening. The first the

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The doctor's

HOME NEWS

'Misleading sexual advice given to children'By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent

Children as young as 10 years are being given unbalanced and sometimes wrong information about sexual matters in teenage magazines and by officially sponsored bodies such as the Family Planning Information Service and the Health Education Council, the responsible Society said yesterday.

Dr Stanley Ellison, chairman of the society, which was formed in 1971 to engage in research and education in matters affecting the family and youth, said there was an assault on children, apparently with the aim of ensuring that adolescents engaged in sexual intercourse at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Government appeared to encourage that assault. There was constant reference to "boy" and "girl" sexual intercourse in a brochure published by the Family Planning Information Service, and the age of consent was mentioned as an afterthought rather than as a matter of significant importance, Dr Ellison said.

The brochure advised boys and girls to use private family planning clinics and the FPA's mail order business, which seemed a questionable use of public money. The brochure also recommended special advisory sessions for young people where the "advantage is that there is no chance of meeting older relatives or neighbours".

Because parents were largely unaware of what was happening in the society, it had produced a pamphlet for them, which would also be sent to the Department of Health and women's organizations, Dr Ellison said.

The pamphlet, which says that five thousand schoolgirls become pregnant every year before they have any idea of what life has to offer, asks parents if they know what those experts who devise sex education courses and give advice in magazines are saying.

In a statement supporting the pamphlet, Sir John Paul, former president of the British Medical Association, and of the Family Planning Association, said the social approach is much popular, reaching to contraception, abortion and venereal disease, was totally irresponsible because there were many and serious complications.

Tolerant and permissive trends could be reversed only if parents took a hand, made themselves more aware of what was happening and took action to protect their children from exploitation, Sir John said.

A pamphlet on health education in schools, published today by the Department of Education and Science, says that since 1943, when schools were officially recognized as having a responsibility for sex education, there had been many changes that raised often hotly discussed ethical and moral questions.

The question that every school must decide, in cooperation with parents, was the extent to which it had a responsibility in helping young people.

Dear Parents (Responsible Society, The Old Rectory, The Green, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire; 219); Health Education in Schools (Stationery Office; £2.50).



Thatcher tree: Mrs Thatcher, the Conservative leader, planting a tree yesterday in Flood Street, Chelsea, where she lives, as part of the Tree Week campaign.

Teaching union passes 100,000 membership

By Our Education Correspondent

In-service membership of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is now more than 100,000, Mr Terence Casey, general secretary of the union, announced yesterday. The union represents nearly a quarter of all teachers working in schools, he said.

The news should have important repercussions on the size of the union's representation on such bodies as the Burnham Committee on examinations and on current curriculum and other teachers' representative groups with which the Government may wish to hold discussions.

At present the National Union of Teachers, which claims an in-service membership of 230,000, has 16 representatives on the Burnham Committee, compared with only three representatives of the NAS/UWT. The latter's representation has not changed since 1963, when the association's total membership was only about 40,000.

A dispute over representation between the NAS/UWT and the NUT has simmered for many years. Between them the two organizations represent more than two thirds of serving teachers.

The NAS/UWT feels particularly aggrieved that the NUT holds an absolute majority on the Burnham Committee, having 16 seats compared with the total of 12 held by the other seven teachers' associations that means, in effect, Mr Casey argues, that the NUT ultimately determines what the policy on teachers' pay should be.

Mr Casey wants Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to use her powers under the Remuneration of Teachers Act 1965, to determine the formula for representation on the committee, which should reflect the size of the constituent bodies, but on which no one body should have an overall majority, he says.

The minister has asked the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) to determine what representation each teachers' union should have, after the NUT refused a few weeks ago to participate in discussions on the former for the department's circular on the curricular review on the ground that the NAS/UWT was over-represented on the proposed teachers' consultative group.

The move is seen clearly as an attempt to buy off opposition to the new enterprise Bills and prevent a repetition of the position in which the Labour MP for North, opposed the last Bill because of fears in their consequences that Scotland would gain unfair advantages on the industrial front.

Mr Michael Campbell, Labour leader of Tyne and Wear County Council, which has led much of the opposition in the North-east to Scottish devolution, said yesterday that he was greatly disappointed that elected members of local government organizations were not being invited to serve on the new regional boards.

The new boards, according to the government statement issued on Tuesday, are to be comprised of part-time members drawn from industry and trade unions together with the existing NEB regional directors.

Mr Campbell said he hoped that that was "an oversight" on the part of the Government, which would quickly be put right.

Three counties, Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, and Durham, are forming a joint pressure group, the Northern Counties Association, which will try to prevent any unfair share of government aid and job attraction from resources going to Scotland.

That was seen by the leaders of the three counties concerned as a bold move, in presenting the Northern counties to the South and to Whitehall, rather than the unpopular idea of creating an elected regional government.

The fact that the proposed regional enterprise boards will consist of part-time appointed members, rather than democratically elected ones, is seen as a basic weakness.

Well informed sources in Manchester and Liverpool say that political leaders view the government proposals as little more than a halfway house in what is really required.

To make matters worse, the wording had been changed so that Mr Rifkind's question ended up by asking if Mr Healey would visit the PM.

In vain did Mr Callaghan protest that he could not be expected to answer everything, and that if he did there would be nothing left for any other ministers to do. After all, he pointed out, since the beginning of the experiment he had transferred only 14 questions out of 532 addressed to him.

The Opposition benches roared with glee as Mr Callaghan added that some of them were trying to make things as difficult as they could. While not resenting that, MPs should not mind if he sometimes defended himself.

Clearly annoyed at the continued complaints and the lack of response to his noble gesture, the Prime Minister then declared that the experiment was at an end and that he had been transferred to the House would be returned to the old days when the success of a question was judged by the depth of its obscurity.

So Mr Callaghan made the daring suggestion to MPs a few months ago that if they would ask more pertinent questions he would undertake not to transfer their queries quite so frequently. For a while this seemed to be working, but on Tuesday, as the Prime Minister ended his first question time of the new session, Mr Malcolm Rifkind presented that his question asking Mr Callaghan if he would visit the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund in Washington had been transferred to the Treasury.

To make matters worse, the wording had been

so obscurely worded that no

Atomic waste tests planned in Northumberland

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority said yesterday that it was considering making an application to carry out test drilling in Northumberland to study the properties of granite for waste disposal. The tests would be part of an EEC research programme, with other countries studying clay and salt formations.

The area being considered is Chillingham Forest. The authority said the nature and objectives of the programme would be explained to Northumberland County Council next Thursday.

Another granite formation to be investigated is in the Carrick Forest area of south-west Scotland. The authority expects to submit a planning application to drill there within a few weeks. Other studies of granite are being made in south-west England.

Television 'should give warnings about violence'

Warnings should be shown on television screens before programmes with a violent content are shown, Mr Whitelaw, opposition spokesman on home affairs, said yesterday. The warnings, he said, should also be carried in Radio Times and TV Times.

Recalling that the independent television experiment on those lines had been found helpful and useful, he added: "I should hope there was at least the need to take action to warn people about programmes and that there should be some symbols indicating the programmes with a large amount of violence in them."

Mr Whitelaw, speaking to the Broadcasting Press Guild, said he thought there was a relationship between violence on television and violence in the country as a whole, particularly among young people. "If

we as adults take a very relaxed view of violence then I think the children will feel them selves that this does not matter and will be rather encouraged."

But television, he continued, played a minor part compared with the whole basis of our society. Speaking of the juvenile court system and the type of sentences now being passed, he said: "We have got to think very seriously about the fact that a lot of young people are drifting right through the system and at no stage are they being deterred from continuing a life of crime; somehow we have got to break that. This is seen as a controversial view, but with all the efforts of non-custodial sentences we have also to consider whether, along

sharp shock treatment."

Farmers to reserve space for wildlifeBy Hugh Clifton
Agricultural Correspondent

The farming lobby in England and Wales committed itself yesterday to finding space for beauty spots and wildlife in a shrinking and intensively cultivated agricultural landscape.

The National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association appealed to their combined membership of more than 200,000 for provision of "small parcels of land specifically for the conservation of landscape or wildlife, while the generosity of the countryside is used to produce food and timber."

The statement marks a milestone in nature conservation since the interests of wildlife and farming are contentious. Some of the rarest insects, plants and birds need habitats left uncultivated and often un drained for decades.

British husbandry, among the most advanced in Europe, is being pushed to produce more from a shrinking area. Government policy demands more ruthless efficiency while wildlife thrives best where agriculture is slovenly.

The NFU and CLA decided, after strong appeals from the Countryside Commission, that their members had a responsibility for conserving habitats that often could not be restored once they had been made suitable for farming.

"We must establish a wider appreciation in our own industry of the vital contribution we can make towards the conservation of the landscape and of wildlife", the statement said.

It called on farmers and landowners to dig ponds and keep some permanent pasture free of fertilizers and weed-killers. It recognized that farmers who followed its advice might deny themselves income, and said: "Proper advice, practical and financial incentives for individual farmers and landowners will be needed if conservation objectives are to be achieved."

North criticizes composition of NEB offshoots

By John Charlton

The Government's proposal to set up regional offshoots of the National Enterprise Board in the north-east and north-west of England has received only a cautious welcome in the regions concerned.

Mr Casey wants Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to use

the Remuneration of Teachers Act 1965

for representation on the committee, which should reflect the size of the constituent bodies, but on which no one body should have an overall majority, he says.

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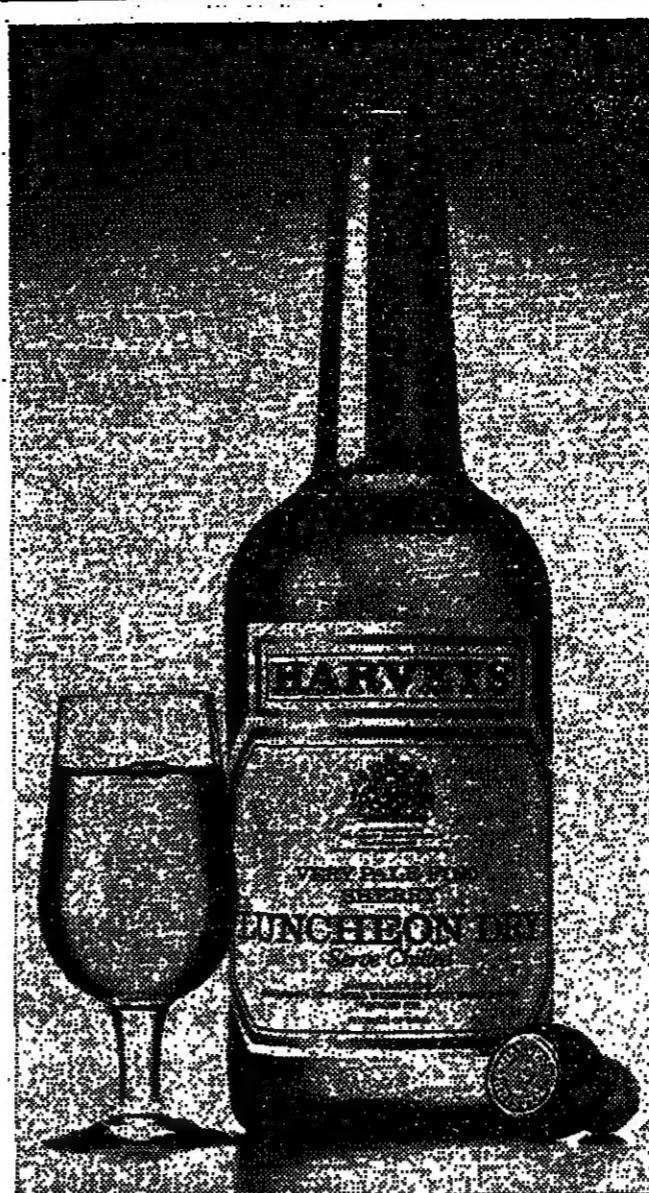
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Well informed sources in Manchester and Liverpool say that political leaders view the government proposals as little more than a halfway house in what is really required.

Come and stay with us soon.

[Top Left]

**The making of two classic styles of sherry.**

Throughout the summer, white Palomino grapes were slowly ripening on the gently rolling hills that surround Jerez de la Frontera.

They were harvested in September, then pressed, and now the musto (juice) is being allowed to ferment freely in casks within the cool, vaulted bodegas.

By next Spring, certain mustos will be developing flor (yeast on the surface of the young wine), and others will not.

LUNCHEON DRY & CLUB AMONTILLADO
from Harveys of Bristol

Only those that do will ultimately become finos or amontillados.

The classic fino is very pale in colour and very dry to taste, with a delicate bouquet. Luncheon Dry is just such a fino, and is always best served chilled as it is in Jerez itself.

The classic amontillado is richer in colour and medium dry to taste, with a particular nuttiness from the cask. Such is the character of Club Amontillado.

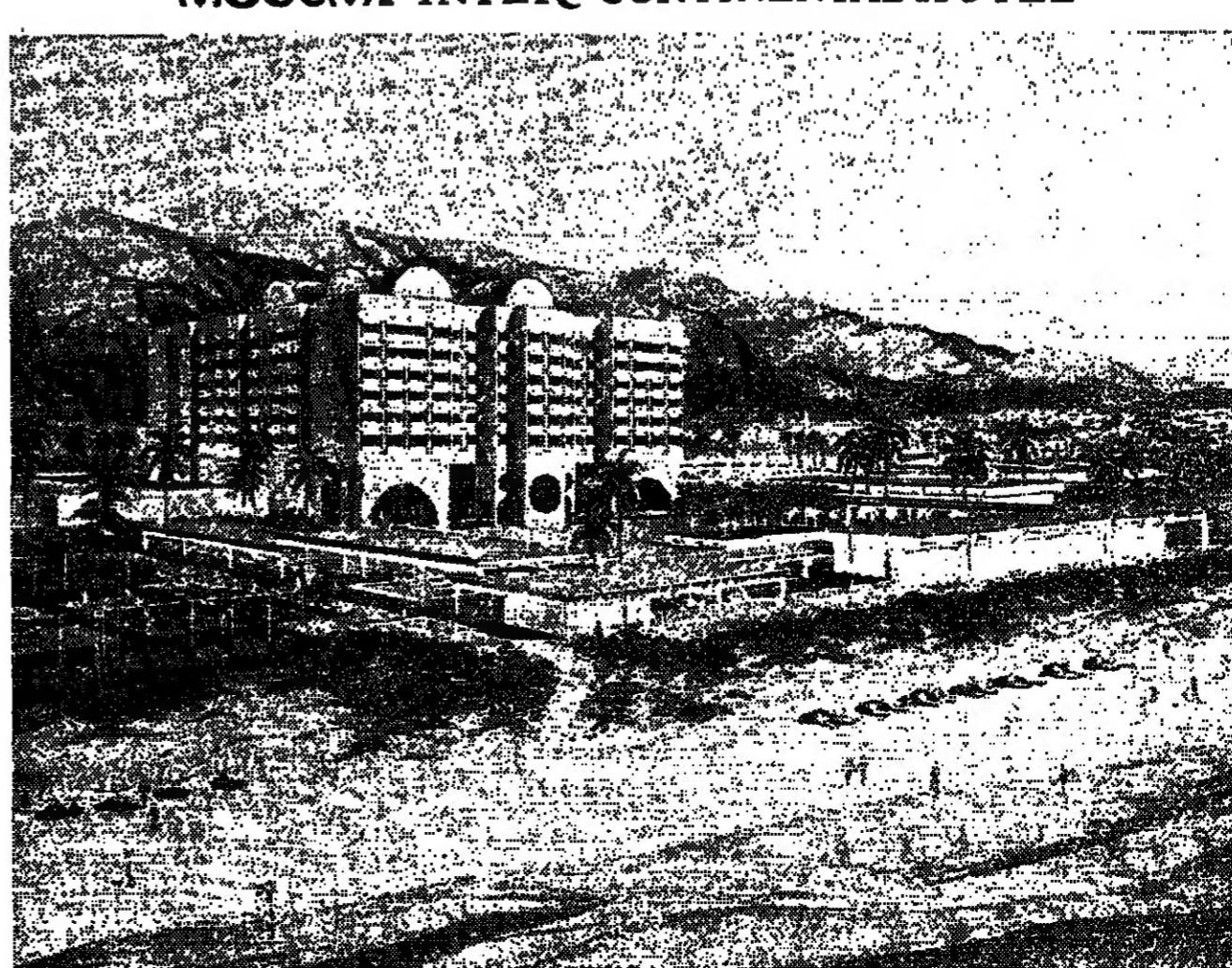
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The opening of our new Inter-Continental hotel provides the experienced traveller with the reassurance that he can now enjoy the very highest standards of luxury and service in Muscat.

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PARLIAMENT, November 9, 1977

Seeking to avoid a Zimbabwe wracked by civil war

House of Commons

The Rhodesian people would not thank him if the rest of the Anglo-American sanctions proposals was an independent Zimbabwe wracked by civil war, as happened in Angola. Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, stated at that time.

He indicated he would be having detailed discussions tomorrow (Thursday) with Field Marshal Lord Carver when he returned from Africa and there would be a debate in the House on Friday on the Rhodesian sanctions case.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind (Edinburgh, Pentlands, C) said: "The exchanges there is in reality no more prospect of integrating the terrorist forces with the Rhodesian security forces than there would be of integrating the IRA with the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Any prospect of progress must concentrate on settlement between the internal government, led by Mr Smith, and the external African nationalist leaders."

Dr Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab) - No, I think that is rather a feeble statement. If he thinks this complex problem can be likened to that other complex problem, I read, then he is cheapening both.

Mr William Vaughan (Walsall, Walsall, C) - Will he at least not close his mind on the sensible point raised by Mr Rifkind? If Lord Carver on his return does not advise the Foreign Secretary that something needs to be done, will he not make it clear that he will be receptive to advice in that direction?

Dr Owen - I am appalled to any solution in Rhodesia and will listen to anyone. I have not a closed mind. What I have to bring about is a peaceful settlement. That is the point. That is extremely difficult when one is faced with two forces

neither of whom have won or lost, and both of whom have to be brought together in a ceasefire.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (East Thurrock, C) - What progress has Lord Carver made in reconciling the serious differences between those African bishops with internal supporters, and those with external support? Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe?

Dr Owen - I agree. The threat of civil war in a post-independence situation is every bit as much a part of my anxieties as a breakdown of law during transitional period.

Mr Owen - One of the things which has bedevilled the problem of Rhodesia is the division of opinions between the African nationalist leaders. There are at least four people who could be presidential candidates among black leaders.

But it is not so simple as external and internal support. Mr Nkomo has got internal support although he is not inside Rhodesia. Bishop Murombo and Mr Smith would claim - and I have little doubt that they are claiming it - that they have support from the people. I think that is true.

Mr Andrew Faulds (Worley, East, C) - The disbandment of Smith's so-called security forces is one of the main problems. When Smith's forces have been disbanded, paid off or what the hell, the formation of a new security force under his regime will be the liberation forces together under Commonwealth officers might be the way to solve that problem.

Dr Owen - Some form of integration of the forces will be necessary. That is the only realistic way that it will be to the people of Rhodesia's choice of who is to be the president and who is an independent Zimbabwe.

Dr Owen - I agree to those who find the concept difficult, and there must be few who do not find it difficult. The fact is not that we are talking about when we talk of the Zimbabwe national army.

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Dr Owen - I agree. The threat of civil war in a post-independence situation is every bit as much a part of my anxieties as a breakdown of law during transitional period.

Mr Owen - One of the things which has bedevilled the problem of Rhodesia is the division of opinions between the African nationalist leaders. There are at least four people who could be presidential candidates among black leaders.

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Home Secretary urges firemen to reconsider strike action: plans to protect life and property

A call to the Fire Brigades Union and its members to think again about the strike proposed for next Monday was made by Mr Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary.

He could understand, he said, that firemen felt they had waited a long time but the discussions on a pay formula and on reduction of the working week held out great and long-looked-for promise for the future.

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Knaresborough, C) - There is widespread suspicion in the area that it is the Government's purpose to impose a solution upon the Fire Brigades Union and its members to set their pay base on a formula which recognises their value to the community. I want to see discussions on that and of a reduction forward.

I want the members of the union to weigh the benefits to them of what is on offer and the disasters and tragedies which may be the consequence of a strike.

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firemen to train new firemen. It will take about a year.

The aim is to get a 42-hour week. That commitment we allowed to go through the NJC. And it is one of the most important of the fire service for more than 25 years. I hope they will think about this carefully.

Mr John Parry (North Cornwall, C) - We have the delays and frustrations suffered over a long period by firemen in their demands. The Government's proposals are fair and reasonable.

Although withdrawal of labour may literally mean death, he has no alternative but stand firm. The House must support him in his last minute appeal to the better nature of the firemen.

Mr Rees - Whatever is going to happen is calculable. At the end of the day I do not believe that despite what they said at the conference, people are going to sit back and watch people die. That is not the fire service. We have known for at least 10 to 15 years that the maintenance of the guidelines on pay

and on conditions of work which may be the consequence of a strike.

We reinforced (he said) that there will be no question of any settlement with effect from November 7 which was not within the limits of the Government's guidelines. We made it clear that the Government recognises the importance of the National Joint Council for local authorities and the union.

We also reinforced (he said) that the members of the union to weigh the benefits to them of what is on offer and the disasters and tragedies which may be the consequence of a strike.

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OVERSEAS

Carter attempt to win support for energy cuts fails to impress

From David Cross

Washington, Nov 9 President Carter's latest attempt to rally the public and, more important, sceptical members of Congress, behind his flagging energy programme has not had its intended impact.

Most members of Congress, who watched Mr Carter's 20-minute televised address to the nation last night from the White House or their homes, probably agreed with the assessment of Mr Thomas Ashley, a Democrat Congressman from Ohio. He told reporters that the speech "has not changed any".

The message conveyed by Mr Carter was essentially a reiteration of everything he has said since he unveiled his proposals in the spring with the dramatic announcement that the fight against inflation was "the moral equivalent of war". The only noticeable difference from his recent lectures was a significant toning down of criticism of the oil and gas industry, which he accused last month of attempting "the biggest rip-off in history".

Mr Carter made it clear that he would sign energy legislation only if it were fair, if it helped energy conservation and encouraged the development of new fuel sources.

The long debate was not a contest of strength between the President and Congress, nor between the House of Representatives and the Senate, he said. "What is being measured is the strength and will of our nation, whether we can acknowledge a threat and meet a serious challenge together."

This was a reference to the entirely different versions of his original energy proposals initially approved by the two houses of Congress. The lower

Leading article, page 17

Mr Sadat is ready to go to Knesset itself

From Edward Mortimer

Cairo, Nov 9

President Sadat said today that he was so anxious to open peace negotiations with Israel that he would even go to the Knesset, the Israeli Parliament. Speaking at the opening of the Egyptian National Assembly, the President said he would agree to any procedural demand Israel might put forward for the Geneva conference, "because when I get to Geneva neither Israel nor the world will be able to stop me from demanding the legitimate right of the Palestinians to establish their independent homeland".

He was ready, he added to go "to the furthest corner of the world if that would save guard one soldier or officer from being killed, or even

wounded. Israel will be surprised when it hears me say before you that I am ready to go to the Knesset itself to discuss with them".

The emotional statement, which came near the end of a two-and-a-half-hour speech dealing with both domestic and foreign affairs, was greeted with loud applause.

Mr Sadat said he had spoken by telephone to President Asad of Syria just before coming to the assembly, "and we agreed that I should visit him after I have attended to certain pressing issues". Misruse and lack of communication between Egypt and Syria have been the main stumbling blocks in recent Arab efforts with tennis shoes draped around her neck.

Strikes force Argentine rethink

From Andrew Tarnowski

Buenos Aires, Nov 9

Argentina's recent strike wave was the strongest labour challenge yet faced by the military Government. For a few days there was confusion and crisis in the air. Strikes are banned, but it looked as if they were becoming widespread.

The strike had hit the railways, the capital's commuter network and its underground train system. Postal workers, dockers, airline pilots and other state employees were affected.

For a while there was fear of a climactic confrontation. Every Argentine remembers that the 1969 riots in Córdoba which helped to bring down General Juan Carlos Onganía, were the result of austerity policies similar to those of the present Government.

The fears proved exaggerated. The crisis subsided quite peacefully after eight days once the military leaders showed their muscle. Indeed, the Government may have emerged strengthened, although it will have to think hard now about putting the labour movement on a legal footing.

The strikes surprised nobody, although their spontaneity was impressive. They began when 40 railway signalmen walked out demanding higher pay, and then snowballed. There was no organization behind them because trade union activities remain banned.

Dr Martínez de Hoz obtained

President Jorge Rafael Videla's

Ottawa tries to play down Paris-Quebec links

From Our Correspondent

Ottawa, Nov 9

A complicated game of diplomatic one-upmanship seems to be taking shape in relations between Canada and France following the lavish reception given to Mr René Lévesque, Premier of Quebec, in Paris last week.

The Canadian Government, though uneasy about what the events in Paris portend in respect to future French policy towards Quebec, is doing its best to play down the affair.

Questioned about it in the Commons yesterday, Mr Trudeau, the Prime Minister, replied simply that for the moment Quebec French interests are more important than French medals.

The illusion was to President Giscard d'Estaing's action in visiting the French Legion of Honour to Mr Lévesque at the Elysée Palace last Thursday. The ceremony was one of the high points of an action-filled, five-day visit to France by the Quebec Premier, whose Parti Québécois Government wants to take the French-speaking province out of the Canadian Confederation.

In the Commons on Monday

Mr Jean Chrétien, the Finance Minister, who was acting as Prime Minister in Mr Trudeau's absence, told a questioner that relations between France and Canada were "excellent".

He made no response to a suggestion by a Government back-bencher that Canada should invite the leaders of the separatist parties of Corsica and Brittany to Ottawa, and encourage them to destroy the "integral sovereignty" of France.

Mr Chrétien and the Prime Minister were reflecting the thinking of the External Affairs Department that there is no reason for Canada to make a diplomatic incident out of the attention showered on Mr Lévesque, and thereby risk a rift with France at this point.

Mr Donald Jamieson, the External Affairs Minister, told reporters that Canada will seek clarification of President Giscard d'Estaing's references to French support for Quebec, and the planned exchange of meetings between Mr Lévesque and M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister.

At the same time, the Can-

adian authorities appear satisfied, after studying a report from Mr Gérard Pellerin, Canadian Ambassador in Paris, that however warm the welcome accorded Mr Lévesque it was not such as would be given to a head of state.

Despite the Government's resolute tuning of the other cheek, the Lévesque visit has clearly ushered in a new phase in relations between Canada and France, characterized by growing Canadian doubts about French intentions regarding support for Quebec separation.

Significantly, the very day Mr Lévesque arrived home from an emotional welcome from thousands of cheering Quebecers internationally, especially in the French-speaking world outside France.

At the same time, it may be a warning signal to France that Canada, a bilingual and bicultural country, has the resources to penetrate France's African sphere of influence if France starts interfering in Quebec.

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At the same time

NEW BOOKS

Little local difficulties

The Diaries of a Cabinet Minister
Volume Three: Secretary of State for Social Services, 1962-70
By Richard Crossman
(Hausch Hamilton/Cape, £12.50)

Perhaps these last years of the Crossman diaries should be re-cited. *The Twilight of the Gods*:

Nixon apparently said after he had been to our Cabinet that it was one of outstanding ability and calibre and variety. This is true; it isn't simply that we have six Oxford Firsts (seven before we lost Frank D'Abremont); it is that we are still quite an interesting gang—March 9, 1969.

Those whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make excessively pleased with themselves.

Harold Wilson's own "personal record" of the 1964-70 Labour government is pure operetta, with Sir H. as Pooh-bah. But Crossman is a Wagmore, not a D'Oyle Carte fan. (He would much prefer to be Covent Garden instead of voting in the House of Commons.) His attention in these diaries was, therefore, more grandly phobic, sopher; he announced in volume I: to bring up to date Beagle's Victorian view of the British constitution.

But how up-to-date was Richard Howard Stafford Crossman, born 1907, the son of a judge?

Off to a Jarrow party at the Privy Council Office (where he had his room as Lord President before becoming Social Services Secretary), with nice little speeches by Godfrey Houns and myself. We have had a love-hate relationship. I said goodbye to Mr Pickersgill, a splendid man who had been a good friend to people round and helped with my parties at night. He reached the apex of kindness when I wanted to get a pencil torch to read the libretto of *Gotterdammerung* and he borrowed his daughter's. He is

driven back into himself. He is older, tamer, more restrained. He is back in a major spending department (though the man we learn about it is to sympathize with the civil servants who had to endure his daily parody of a *Daily Express* editor). But he's rather out of

a marvellous type of old-fashioned butler and we said a fond fare-

well—November 1, 1963.

Crossman has a stunning ability to be patronizing. Here he is, appointing a new chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, "a great big, tall, gangling man, a real slow-working-class chap with a lovely face and a very pleasant wife."

Remember that this is a man rated left-wing on almost any political scale you could think of. But his personality and his policies were a bad fit. He says he was lucky to be MP for Coventry East. With a huge majority, he need spend little time tending his constituency.

He feels, more the less, that his local supporters have kept him more left-wing than he might otherwise have been. And he's grateful.

Left, but not very left. The generation conflicts of 1968 are tucked into parentheses: "LSE (which, by the way, is now in revolution)." He is, searching about Bernadette Devlin.

Being the most rambling, this is the best of the three volumes. The first (1964-65) was full of Labour's admiration of actually doing something, after a whole year of leadership, and speechifying; and it had Dame Evelyn Sharp as prime donne. But Crossman lived long enough to realize this volume almost too artfully.

The second (1966-68) is the dullest. He is so close to the centre of things that he loses his outsider-on-the-inside status. He becomes pure insider.

In this third volume he is driven back into himself. He is older, tamer, more restrained. He is back in a major spending department (though the man we learn about it is to sympathize with the civil servants who had to endure his daily parody of a *Daily Express* editor). But he's rather out of

favour. And so is the whole

army *terribilis* of 1969. The

Government lost its hold over Parliament with the Lords' Reform Bill (Crossman's personal dead duck); splintered the trades union connection with the Barbara Castle Industrial Relations Bill (Crossman was an anti, like Callaghan); and Roy Jenkins played the iron Chancellor, stacking up the balance of payments and the odds against a Labour majority in 1970.

But, meanwhile, even twilight has its compensations. There are claret and gull's eggs at Brooks's, lunch at the Ritz ("What a pretty place") and dinner at the "lovely house" of Lady Hartwell, the wife of the owner of the Telegraph. Crossman is quite conscious of the discrepancy.

The greatest comedy scene—almost Buster Keaton—has Crossman and Barbara Castle and their families sneaking off in mid-crisis on to Charles Forte's Mediterranean yacht.

Everyone has a code name: Wilson is Lion, Castle is Peacock, Barbara is Owl. The code, however, only for got on to make my contact with the consul at Naples, through whom all communications had to come."

Politics is a strange mixture of loneliness and gregariousness. Even on the yacht, this emerges. Crossman and Castle share a Bevanite past, and much friendship; but they're bitterly opposed to each other on policy.

When Crossman is sick in bed, only one member of cabinet (Callaghan) writes him a note. Would he have written anyone a note? And if so, with what motive?

The contradictions in Crossman are what give this volume,

like its predecessors, its edge.

It is not surprising that he was an infuriating colleague, and an even more infuriating boss. He gives a speech in London to "all British Jews of any distinction who care about Zionism." Yet he falls into the chairman use of "Jew" as very near to a term of insult. Solomons, the Labour MP for Hull, north "was a very boring elderly London Jew." Reg Freeson, the present Minister for Housing, is "that little wet Jew from Willesden."

The diaries end as the election of June 1970 puts Edward Heath and Richard Crossman into jobs for which it turns out they're not entirely suited—the Prime Ministership and the editorship of the *New Statesman*, respectively. A certain bullying manner has something to do with each of them. Like local difficulties. It is all a long way from the glad dawn of October 1964 and volume I: "hundreds of people cheering and cheering."

In due course, a non-dom, a man without any university education at all, took over the Labour leadership.

The 2,578 pages of the three volumes are a service to history, even if Crossman is too much the diarist to have reached his Bagehot target. But there's also a contribution to literature skulking among these thickets of recollection. I hope the publishers have someone whipping up the scissors, for an abridged version, with less admin in it.

It's almost as much a portrait of a dead world as Kilver's diaries. On page 487, there's a footnote to explain what a half-crown is.

Paul Barker

The two previous volumes of the Diaries are still available: volume one at £7.95; volume two at £9.50.



Agatha Christie as a young girl

Almost all

An Autobiography
By Agatha Christie
(Collins, £8.50)

It had happened this morning. The same goes for girlhood and young womanhood in Torquay, in Paris, in Cairo, and for the half-wit romance in the atmosphere of a calm and steady Marion suddenly finding itself hectically at war.

Only when her vaguely chronological account reaches the Second World War do the pages become a bit ragged and diary-like. But all the way up to then this is a real book that says something worth hearing about life and the way one person lived it.

Seldom indeed does she descend into anecdote, that is, of biography, and even then her anecdotes are almost always at least good dinner-table stuff often salted with homely philosophy, by no means to be despised. And if she tells us little about the way she wrote the books that turned her from a not-ordinary wife and mother into one of the best selling authors ever, well, that is largely because there is, really, little to tell.

The book is enhanced by snapshots photographs that often make you say "Ah, so that's what he looked like" and by half a dozen colour reproductions of family portraits that are yet more revealing, and jolly charming too.

In short, here is a study of that passionately interesting person an ordinary human being. It is told us by someone with the rewarding gift of vivid recall and with a fine talent for clear telling.

H. R. F. Keating

Also published today: *A Poirot Quirks* containing *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, *The Mystery of the Blue Train* and *After the Funeral and Death on the Nile*, the first volume in Collins' Collectors' Choice series, at £3.75.

Father love

Shadows on the Grass
By Colin Middleton Murry
(Collins, £4.95)

The daily life of her childhood home in late Victorian Torquay comes to us vividly as

the home front, though he managed to pick up a tropical virus

"since the closest I had been to the tropics was the Hawaiian Bar in Dundee this seemed both unfair and unlikely".

Oxford followed, and then adventures in the book trade and marriage to Ruth, who not only believed in him, but trusted him. It seems as though this love and trust, encountered for the first time, helped to improve the relationship with his father. Though they obviously loved each other, his father could never bring himself either to approve or to encourage except in a series of qualified negatives.

In a book which is often very funny, particularly about his teaching experiences, Colin Middleton Murry paints a touching portrait of his father, this extraordinary man, gifted in many ways, except for relationships with other people.

There was one exception, and she was his fourth wife, with whom he achieved the happiness which had eluded him for so long. The book ends with the son's meditation at his father's burial in 1957, no a love which had been of the utmost importance to his son.

beautifully captured, maintained and then heightened as this short book progresses.

There is a fair quality to the dialogue and a twisting, darning plot that grips continually.

There is one small grouse, however. The book is written in the present tense and at times it comes terribly close to the pretentious and the arch.

Miss Lash just about gets away with it, because the book is short enough to cope with it and because the rhythm of her story line can maintain it.

It is a near thing, but she succeeds.

Get Down There And Die is a haunting little novel by an exceptionally interesting writer.

Margery Sharp's *Summer Visits* is the least demanding and most unpretentious of the batch. I enjoyed it enormously.

The story line is simple. It concerns a century in the life of a country house and the people who live in it.

The structure of the book is soundness itself, and on it Miss Sharp has built a story of delicacy, humour, sadness and, above all, great style. Miss Sharp is a confident writer, because she is a true craftsman.

I keep harping on about craftsmanship, but when you see it in action like this, you realize how vital it is.

The mood of menace is most

Storm-tossed

Churchill and the Admirals
By Stephen Roskill
(Collins, £8.50)

Singapore, and took decisions which destroyed "not only Britain's position in the entire area but that of other European powers as well."

He is also castigated for his share in the 1941 disasters in Greece and Crete, where the attempt to defend Greece probably delayed the clearance of the German and Italian armies from North Africa for up to two years; for his "addiction" to capturing islands wherever they were, which wasted resources; and for his acceptance of the "unconditional surrender dogma" at Casablanca in 1943.

The most serious misjudgment of all, however, was his determination to bomb Germany instead of concentrating upon securing the sea lanes. Admiral W. J. Whitworth, Second Sea Lord, in a letter to Cunningham, described the Admiralty's battle with the Air Ministry as "much more savage than our war with the Huns". Had the Admiralty's priorities been accepted, concludes Capt. Roskill, the battle of the Atlantic could have been won at least six months earlier "with far-reaching effects on the course of the war and indeed on the condition of post-war Europe".

But A. V. Alexander the First Lord and Dudley Pound, a sick, worn-out figure, were not strong enough to cope with Churchill—obsessed by his strategy of "offensive" measures.

It is hard not to feel desirably sorry for naval officers affected by osteoarthritis and aged by service. A naval captain, recounting a naval staff meeting in June, 1940, wrote: "After a not very long time I noticed that Pound was drooling down the stem of his pipe—not just a drop, for I was at least five yards away. He may have not been asleep, but he was quite 'out' for the count"—and the meeting was continued as if the Chief of Staff had not been there. But he was admirably loyal to Churchill, and his unselfish assumption that the Prince of Wales and the Republic might be contrasted to Churchill's reaction—which was to look for a scapegoat.

This must be by definition something of a "bitty" book, tracing as it does one strand of the complicated story throughout Churchill's long association with the Navy. But it is still a hugely readable, fascinating study, full of scholarship and personal insight on the interplay of human character.

Henry Stanhope

Also just published: *Winston Churchill, the Companion Volume 1917-1922*, by Martin Gilbert (Heinemann, £2). The documents and letters that were used in the fourth volume of the official biography.

Reviews next week: Michael Ratcliffe on *A History of Rhodesia* by Robert Blake; William Haley on *Lermontov* by Laurence Kelly; Louis Heren on *V. S. Naipaul's India*; Susan Hill on the last of P. G. Wodehouse.

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Tom Bentley, *Yorkshire Post*

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Fiction

The Dark Lady
By Louis Auchincloss
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £4.95)

Danny Hill, Memoirs of a Prominent Gentleman
Edited by Francis King
(Hutchinson, £3.95)

Get Down There and Die
By Jennifer Lash
(Harrington Press, £4.50)

Summer Visits
By Margery Sharp
(Heinemann, £4.10)

Louis Auchincloss is a man besotted. He writes of American high society. He is happiest in the Thirties with cool, cool ladies, power-flecked gents and the fat, opulent chateaux of New England.

It's Scott Fitzgerald territory, of course. But whereas as that superb writer treated his material with a mordant and sardonic amusement, Mr Auchincloss is totally bewitched and captivated by it. And this is the trouble with *The Dark Lady*.

Danny Hill is a literary jape.

Francis King, clever old thing, has had the great good fortune to come into possession of the memoirs of the brother of Fanny Hill (pause for giggles)

wreaks on all those with whom she comes into contact.

A dark, dark lady indeed is Miss Dart, and Mr Auchincloss is obviously ravished by the spicy pungency of the stews she concocts for the poor misfortunate who fall into her clutches.

It is not good enough. An author needs a certain detachment from his material. He needs time and space to assemble it to its most telling advantage. He needs the coolness, which Mr Auchincloss so admires in his ladies.

There can be no doubt of his technical abilities. He has elegance and refinement of style, although there are times when the flamboyance of dialogue makes you cringe. His backgrounds are drawn with sensitivity and loving attention to detail.

In the final count, however, the mix is too rich because the writer has become too involved.

A step back from the plot, a cock of the head to see the subject from another angle would have worked wonders.

It is a book killed by kindness.

Danny Hill is a literary jape. Francis King, clever old thing, has had the great good fortune to come into possession of the memoirs of the brother of Fanny Hill (pause for giggles)

wreaks on all those with whom she comes into contact.

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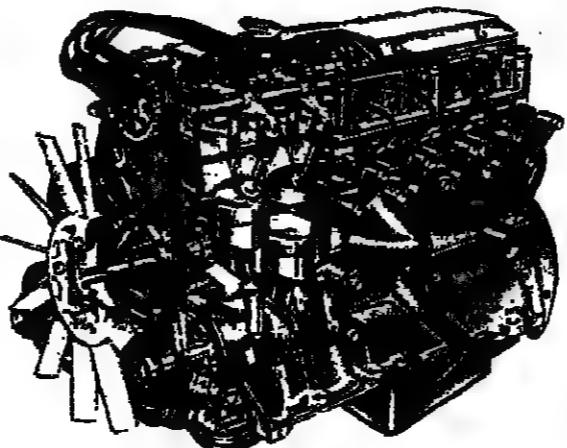
The new Rovers share the same, aerodynamic, fuel-conscious styling as the 3500. Inside, there's the same astounding roominess and equally meticulous level of appointment. Rover's award-winning attention to safety is there, from general design to smallest detail.

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The Rover 3500 opened a new world of motoring. The new Rover 2300 and 2600 open that world a lot wider. See them at your Rover showroom.

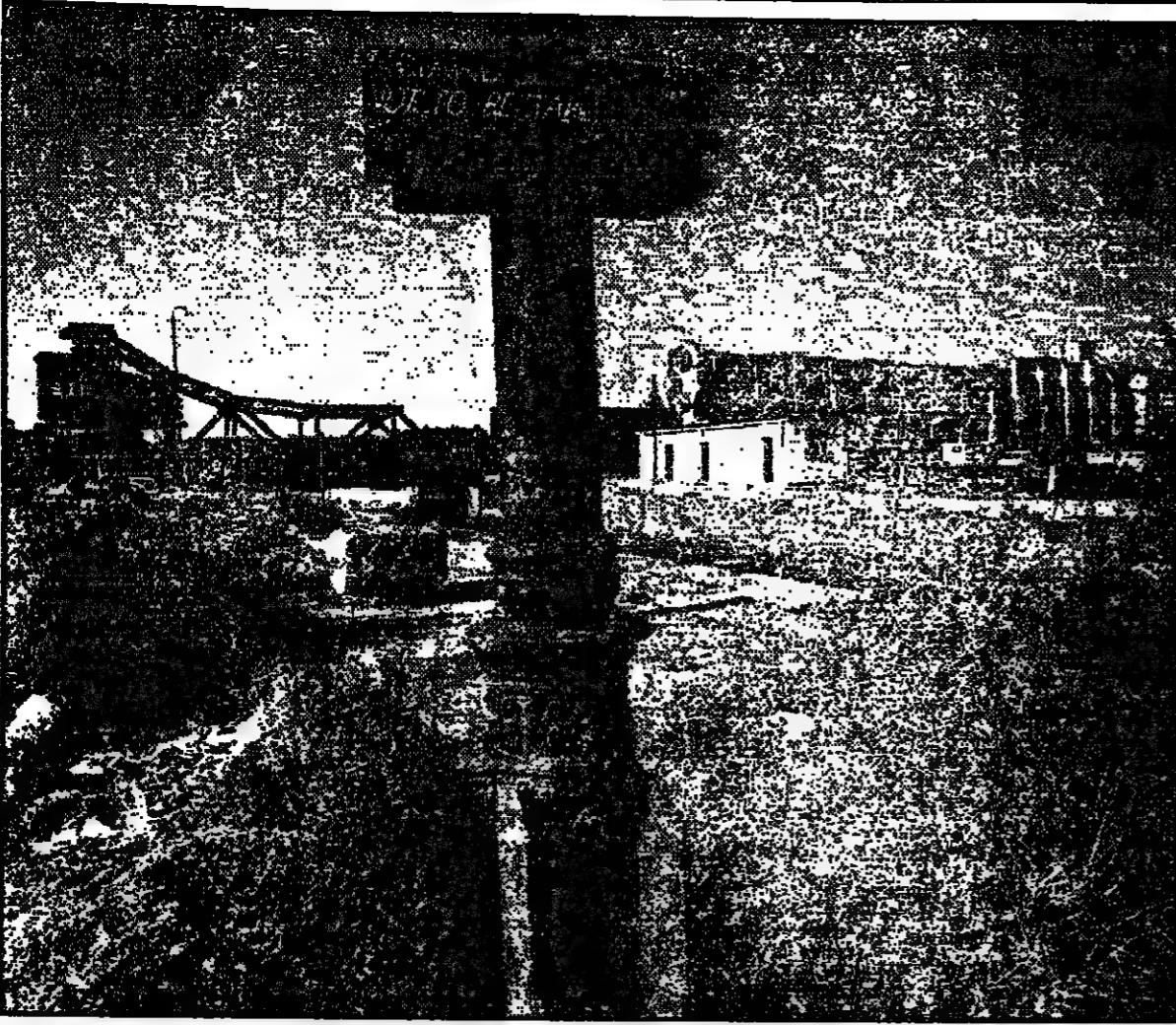


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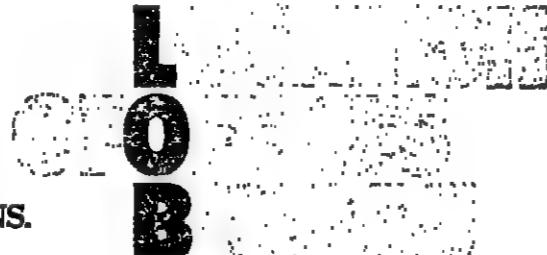
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London's dockland looks to the future

by Christopher Warman

Bringing life back to the derelict acres of London dockland has been a thorn in the flesh of the GLC as both public and private agencies have attempted, at a time of economic difficulty, to regenerate and redevelop that large area of east London.

A start has been made, and there have been conspicuous achievements, for example, at St Katherine Docks, but the difficulties remain. In the past few years the Government, the Labour-controlled GLC and the dockland boroughs have been laying the foundations for what would be, if it succeeds, one of the great changes in the face of the capital since the war.

For Labour it was not to be, and the Conservatives assumed the mantle of responsibility, appointing Sir Hugh Wilson, architect and planner, as chairman of the docklands joint committee, made up of the GLC and the dockland boroughs.

In August, Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced the allocation of £17m for construction schemes in dockland under the partnership arrangements of the Government's policy on inner city

Now in power he and his team are displaying signs of

determination to get things going.

In its term of office, Labour boasted of 1,000 new homes, 180 approvals out of 212 planning applications, a new industrial park at Beckton for 100,000 sq ft of industry, a £5m project with the Thames Water Authority to drain Bedlam for housing and industry, and a development in Tower Hamlets to provide offices, warehousing, jobs and housing.

It saw a four-phase development up to the year 2000 costing £120m, with a new underground line to dockland. "London and dockland are part of Europe's golden triangle which links Northern Italy, London and Germany's industrial belt via Belgium", Labour said in its election manifesto.

The Conservatives took control at County Hall in May and they have the next four years in which to make their mark. Mr Horace Cutler, now leader of the council, when in opposition used to berate the Labour Government for its inactivity and declare that proper use of the 5,000 acres of dockland could remedy London's housing shortage.

Now in power he and his team are displaying signs of

The money has gone to a number of road and rail projects which can be completed in the short term, and at the same time Mr Shore gave his blessing to larger schemes, including relief roads and an east London river crossing.

Mr Shore announced a further £45m for docklands under the partnership arrangements last month which can be incorporated in the plans now being drawn up.

The one project the Government turned down was the Fleet/River Line, renamed by the Conservatives the Jubilee Line, which was designed to be the main link to dockland. The Government concluded that the line was unlikely to carry industrial workers to or within dockland, would lose money, and would not attract much capital for housing, shopping and services.

Without government assistance the Underground line is called, will probably not be built.

Mr Cutler believes the Government's decision to be misguided. He regards the rail proposal as providing the essential means of linking those parts of dockland which have long been isolated from one another. "I have also regarded the construction of the railway as the means not only of

attracting development but spending of £50,000 on a scheme to stimulate industrial and commercial interests in dockland.

In the longer term the GLC is campaigning for the establishment of a free port for the dockland area. The idea had been raised before, but the present administration has brought it to a new urgency, believing that a duty-free area near London could stimulate commerce and industry.

A deputation from the council recently spent a day looking round the free port of Hamburg during the conference of the International Union of Local Authorities.

They were encouraged both by what they saw and by the Hamburg authorities and are preparing their case to put to the Government.

These are still early days for the Conservative administration. County Hall as they carry on and adjust the new dockland policy. Under the partnership scheme with the Government the council is requested to come forward with a programme for action "in a concerted and committed manner" by next summer to cover 1979 to 1982. Then it will be seen how much nearer to realization the dream has become.

The author is Local Government Correspondent, The Times.

Wider role for office location bureau

It appeared at first that the new role given to the Location of Offices Bureau in May was a complete reversal of its previous 14-year existence. But things are rarely as they first seem, and the bureau was able to welcome its expanded duties, while averted at misinterpretations of its change of character.

Although now those misinterpretations have been cleared up the bureau faces another difficulty. Neither extra staff nor money has been provided by the Government to allow the full implementation of its new role, and indeed the autumn advertising campaign of the bureau scarcely reflects it.

When the LOB was set up in 1963, its function was to "encourage the dispersal of office employment from congested Central London to suitable centres elsewhere".

This was at a time when the previous decade had seen an increase of 150,000 people travelling daily at peak hours to the centre of London and when the growth of office development was at its height.

The declining population of London and the loss of jobs, mainly in the manufacturing industries, over the last few years has led to shameful decay in the inner areas, and the Government is now embarked on a policy to tackle that decay and its causes.

In line with the policy, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced on May 17 that the bureau's somewhat narrow role would be widened to charge it with the task of promoting the better distribution of office employment in England and Wales.

Two specific new functions were added to the bureau's terms of reference—to attract international concerns so that they locate office employment in Britain; and to give particular attention to the promotion of office employment in inner urban areas.

In the case of London this excluded the Central London area, largely the City and the West End, the parts from which the bureau had been decanting office staff for 14 years.

The Order in Council giving the bureau these new tasks came into force in August, but apart from the lack of staff and money, there is a good deal of research in progress which will be needed to help it to fulfil its role.

One charge the bureau is anxious to dispel is that it has been responsible for the decline in jobs in central London. In hard facts, 2,026 firms and 145,155 jobs were moved under LOB. This could mean an inter-

central London, or a foreign business moving to Liverpool. Foreign firms would look at Britain with different eyes from British businesses.

The net gain in jobs is estimated at 1,500 in inner London and 35,000 in outer London.

Mr Anthony Prendergast, chairman, explained in his annual report: "As I have said on many occasions in the last few years the movement of office jobs between the City and the West End has merely fuelled off

an expansion which, if it had continued, would have strangled the transport system. The movement has at the same time brought the benefit of increased office employment to the rest of the Greater London area."

In the year 1976-77, LOB moved 136 firms and 10,896 jobs, continuing the downward trend of the previous two years, and perhaps hiding a greater decline since 4,000 of the jobs moved reflected decisions taken before April 1975.

The effect of the dispersal of employment on job opportunities in the inner cities is at the heart of the arguments on inner area decay. Although much of the debate has centred on the loss of manufacturing employment, fears have been expressed that similar difficulties may emerge in relation to office jobs.

An analysis of moves in London showed that the small gain of jobs in the inner ring compared with the outer ring was in part because of the lack of office space—about one third of that available in Greater London as a whole. The difference clearly reflects the views of developers on the greater attractions to employers of a location in outer London.

Beyond the South-East, LOB research shows that, contrary to popular notions, substantial proportions of moves to regions containing the largest concentrations has favoured the concentrations themselves rather than decentralized locations.

LOB sees its priorities as first the assisted areas, then inner urban areas such as London's docklands, and then with the encouragement of international jobs in Britain.

On the international front, the bureau has had talks with government departments, including the committee on financial exports. The bureau has presented a leaflet offering its services to international firms.

"We are aiming for a better distribution", Mr Pat Maconby, secretary, said. "This could mean an inter-

national front, the bureau has had discussions with most of the London boroughs to find out their views on office development.

At present LOB is still at the stage of seeing what their potential customers think before they establish their own part in the process.

It may be that office development is not suitable for inner areas, though there is little doubt that the boroughs would like the rate of income such development would provide.

The first £17m for London from the Government in its urban policy had no provision—not even a mention—for offices. They may come later when the areas have come back to life, and that could be a decade.

So for the moment, the bureau is talking, researching and asking the Government for staff to carry out its role. LOB did have a staff of 20, now reduced to 14. If its new terms of reference are to be much more than pious hopes, the bureau has an unanswerable case for strengthening its muscle.

C.W.

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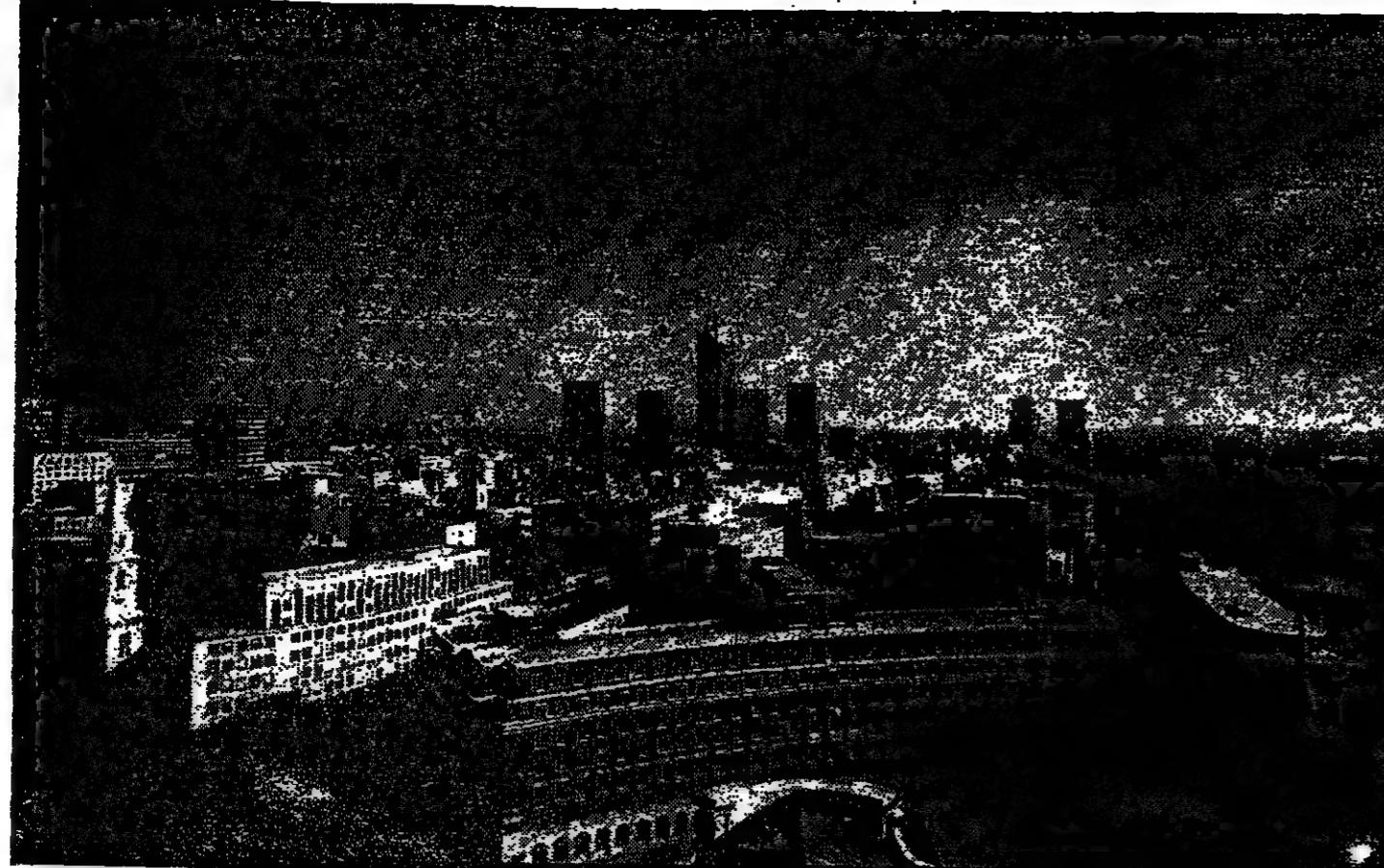
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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

a Special Report on its contribution to urban renewal



Some of London's new office development seen from the dome of St Paul's

the property world, development land tax. The Conservatives apparently intend to retain it, although in a substantially modified form. According to Mr Rossi, a fine balance has to be struck between giving landowners the incentive to bring sites forward for development and taxing excessive profits realized upon the grant of planning permission.

The Conservatives have remained vague about the level of tax they would prefer to see in place of the present rate, which is 80 per cent for any company that realizes development value of more than £160,000 in a year, although anything less is being taxed at 66½ per cent until 1979. The indications are that the Conservatives favour a tax of between 50 and 60 per cent, and most probably would settle on the 52 per cent figure that is now used for corporation tax.

Another drawback to development land tax has been the Inland Revenue's insistence that the liability to tax arises as soon as development begins, instead of when it has been completed and the gains have been realized. To make matters worse, the Inland Revenue is not prepared to agree to the amount of tax before development begins, which is another reason why land suitable for development is being withheld.

The reasoning behind this political dogma is that all increases in the value of property are the result of public action, such as by granting planning permission or carrying out improvement to roads or services.

This is not a view shared by the British Property Federation, which points out that it is usually the landowner or professional purchaser who identifies land as being suitable for a particular type of development.

It is the developer who formulates the detailed plans and assesses the feasibility of the development, and it is the developer who takes the risk that the project may or may not show a reasonable return on the capital invested. In these circumstances, the federation argues, "a fair proportion of the gain should therefore accrue also to the landowner".

The federation believes that the normal rate of corporation tax is the appropriate level at which to tax

development gains by companies, but it suggests that gains made by individuals should be taxed at the normal graduated rates of income tax, but subject to a limit that it should not be higher than the rate applicable to companies.

The federation is not alone in believing that development land tax has been responsible for the severe shortage of housing land.

There is also the view of the National House Building Council and the House Builders Federation. However, it is not only housing land that is being affected but also land for commercial and industrial development, mainly because many owners have been frightened to bring it forward for development because of their fears of the Community Land Act and development land tax.

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As a result of pressure from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and other professional bodies, the Government included an amendment to the tax in this year's Finance Act to allow institutions such as pension funds and insurance companies to finance developments by means of conventional sale and leaseback without becoming liable to pay tax of up to 80 per cent at the outset of the development.

The need for other amendments may become apparent when we have the results of the parallel detailed study of the Development Land Tax Act that is also being undertaken by the RICS.

Whatever changes may be called for in the tax, there is already growing pressure in the City to see the Community Land Act amended, if it is not repealed, to allow local authorities to grant leases of land for 125 years instead of the 99 years favoured by the Government.

Better shopping needed

Faced with unemployment figures in some boroughs that are as bad as the worst in Britain, there is no doubt that London could do with more industrial development, not only in dockland but also in other inner London boroughs such as Hammersmith, Wandsworth and Lambeth. But there is also a limit to what it may be seen, for more offices and shops of the right kind in the right places.

Anyone who struggles up Oxford Street to do the Christmas shopping may appreciate the need for improvement, for the partial pedestrianization of the busiest shopping street in Britain can hardly be considered an environmental success, but why should so many people need to go there at all, to be herded together in conditions that are barely tolerable?

It is little wonder that the new shopping developed at Brent Cross, north London, has proved to be such a roaring success, exceeding the expectations of even the most optimistic traders for many of its customers are those who have been spared the need to trawl up to the West End.

A survey by the West End letting agents, Donaldson and Sons, has shown:

"Shoppers have shifted their spending from central London to Brent Cross rather than from the strategic suburban centres in north west London".

The attraction of a shopping centre like Brent Cross is a combination of such factors as accessibility, availability of parking, quality and range of shops, and comfortable shopping conditions.

Could London do with more such shopping centres in the suburbs?

Clearly, the answer is that it does not need them in places that already have flourishing centres, such as Croydon, Croydon in Richmond, although there may be just as much need to improve conditions for shoppers in these areas as there is in Oxford Street.

As Nealey and Baker, the West End agents with perhaps the greatest experience of shopping properties, said in a recent report: "It seems to us that, in the United Kingdom, the improvement of down-town shopping areas, either by modern shopping developments or by pedestrianization of existing streets, will and should remain the most practical solution for most centres of population."

If the Greater London Council and the local boroughs do not get together soon to improve conditions for shoppers in the centres of Kingston, Richmond and Putney, they will become as unpleasant as Oxford Street, and trade may begin to fade.

Comfortable shopping conditions are not everything, however, for there is also a desire for lower prices. Here London's unwillingness to introduce enclosed shopping centres and pedestrian streets is matched only by its reluctance to allow the development of hypermarkets and superstores in appropriate places.

Although a number of large discount stores have opened in the suburbs over the past few years, London still lacks a true hypermarket or superstore of the kind that many places north of Watford now possess.

One major shopping chain, Tesco, has made it clear that it would welcome the opportunity to develop a hypermarket in Inner London, even on derelict land. "Carefully integrated, the creation of large stores could also have a significant impact on the social regeneration of such areas, not only in employment", it pointed out in a recent submission to the Department of the Environment.

A need for new shops in London is one thing, but what is the need for new offices when the latest floor-space surveys show that there are still millions of square feet unlet? Here, even without the recent upturn in the economy, it has already been apparent to serious observers for some time that the total of empty offices hide some very real shortages.

As chartered surveyors, Jones Lang Wootton, point out: "The severe lack of new buildings in London of over 50,000 sq ft will force expanding firms to look for space away from the capital. The shortage of space in central London will cause rents to rise, thus creating a wider differential between London and provincial rental levels, in turn encouraging firms to move for purely economic reasons."

This shortage of offices in the City is already recognized by the planners. The Greater London Development Plan states that office development can be beneficial in the City and other central London areas, and the City of London planners point out in one of their background studies to the

continued on next page

Growing pressure to amend land Act

by Michael Hanson

In spite of repeated assurances by Conservative Party spokesmen that the Community Land Act will be repealed, some dissenting voices are beginning to be heard from the most surprising quarters.

The British Property Federation, which does not accept that it is necessary for development land to pass through municipal ownership in order to achieve positive planning, nevertheless believes it is necessary for local authorities to have improved powers of compulsory purchase in certain circumstances.

"The Community Land

Act is objectionable in its curtailment of the owner's in his willingness to accept rights of objection", the Community Land Act in people in the property federation says in an official press statement. "Nevertheless there should be provisions for expediting compulsory purchase when the owner of a small parcel of land required for development holds up an entire comprehensive scheme.

These grounds for overriding the objections of an owner should be applied to land that comprises 10 per cent, at the most, of the area required for the whole scheme, on the analogy of the Companies Act, for minority shareholders to be bought out which were designed for the achievement of extreme political objectives.

A former president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Mr Philip Franklin, goes even further. That is not a view that

the Community Land Act has been superficial so far, but the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is conducting a detailed analysis of the working of the Act, with a view to identifying any practical difficulties which have arisen and suggesting changes where necessary, in keeping with a conservative approach favoured by their former president.

This does not impress Mr Hugh Rossi, the Opposition spokesman on housing and land, who told a recent meeting of property men: "Our commitment to repeal is as firm and as strong as ever.

There can be no question of this. The Community Land Act is totally unacceptable".

The federation believes that the normal rate of corporation tax is the appropriate level at which to tax

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by John Young

There are few things more distasteful than the sight of politicians, planners, economists and sociologists jostling to climb aboard a bandwagon. It has been obvious for at least a quarter of a century that many of Britain's older urban areas were in serious economic and environmental disarray because of the combined effects of wartime bombing, insensitive redevelopment, a decaying fabric and an excessive proportion of elderly, poorly educated, unskilled and relatively impoverished inhabitants.

But there was a reluctance

to admit that the millions of pounds poured into urban renewal had been badly spent and misdirected. A scapegoat had to be found, and in due course it was provided by the new towns. It was those who'd be utopian creation of a misplaced ideology that had drained the great cities of their lifeblood: the young, the skilled and the able. Why had we not seen that all along?

At the beginning of last year the Greater London Council, not a body famed for its dynamism and perspicacity, announced that it was seeking to terminate all its existing agreements to disperse overspill population into the new and expanding towns. Until then the new towns had supposed that

they were serving a good purpose. They were spoken of disparagingly, mostly by those whose closest acquaintance was through the windows of a railway carriage. Foreigners, more sensibly, came as they still come—in the architecture, which is largely mediocre to abysmal, the life-organization and the achievements which are, with few exceptions, remarkable.

Now that new towns are out of favour, however, what is to be their future? The Government in its wisdom—

in passing, it is worth remarking that three towns are already producing substantial returns to the Exchequer and, if things were left as they are, several others could be expected to be in a position to redeem their debts within the next few years.

But things are not to be left as they are. The Government has decreed that the so-called first-generation new towns should hand

over their housing assets to

the appropriate local authorities by April 1 next year.

That is clearly a sop to the councils which have complained over the years that the corporations have prevented them from exercising their democratic role as housing authorities.

At this point, however, there is a catch. Rented housing is not a money-making business. What has put towns such as Crawley firmly into the black is the revenue from commercial and industrial estates, and the decree says nothing about that. Basildon, for one, is balked at the idea of taking over and servicing a 60-year debt, to say nothing of the commitment to provide an unspecified amount of further housing to meet so far unspecified future

government targets.

The future of the Commission for the New Towns is also in doubt. This body was established to take over the assets of development corporations which had fulfilled their purpose. At present these comprise Crawley, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead and Welwyn Garden City and, in the near future, could have been expected to include Bracknell, Harlow and Stevenage.

The implication must be that the Government through the commission or some other medium, intends to hold on to the profitable commercial assets, while disposing of the unprofitable housing to local authorities and at the same time obliging them to meet whatever future population targets it might decide upon. From the councils' point of view, that might seem less than a fair deal; but who ever said that Westminster and Whitehall were interested in fair dealing?

However, what exercises new town advocates more than the fate of Basildon is that of the second and third generation towns, particularly those twelve months ago.

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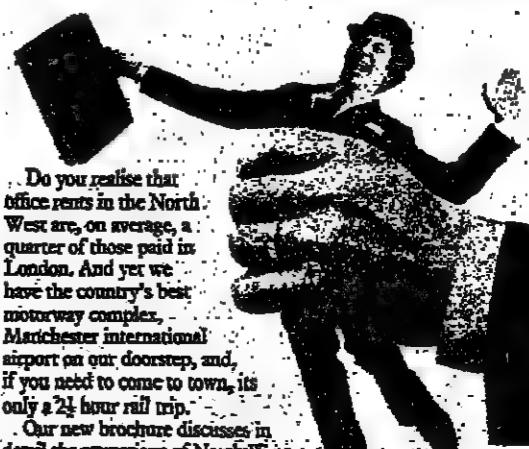
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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

November 9: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University, drove to Wolfson College, Cambridge, this morning and were received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Cambridge (Councillor Colonel Hon. P. E. Braverman), the Mayor of Cambridge (Councillor Maurice Garner) and the President of Wolfson College (Mr J. S. Morrison).

The Queen declared the College open, unveiled a commemorative panel and with The Duke of Edinburgh, toured the building.

Her Majesty, with His Royal Highness, honoured the President and her presence at luncheon and later left for Buckingham Palace.

The Countess of Airlie, Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Martin Charteris and Lieutenant Robert Guy, RN, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor, this afternoon visited the University of Cambridge.

After witness to a Derby match at Granary Road, His Royal Highness visited Selwyn College and Trinity College Lodge, where The Duke of Edinburgh was received by the Master (the Lord Butler of Saltford Wadham).

This evening His Royal Highness attended a dinner given by the Master and Vice-Chancellor (Sir Alan Cutress), was entertained at dinner.

Lieutenant-Commander Anthony Blackburn, RN, was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Bishop of Sheffield (Clerk of the Closet) at the Memorial Service for the Right Reverend and Right Hon. William Ward, formerly Bishop of London and Dean

of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal, which was held in St Paul's Cathedral today.

CLARENCE HOUSE

November 9: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this evening opened the new Assembly Rooms in Derby and subsequently attended a Concert given by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Her Majesty travelled to Derby in an Aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston and Sir Martin Gillian were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

November 9: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester as Patron visited Crosby Hall, Cheyne Walk, this evening.

Mrs Dorothy Meynell was in attendance.

The Duke of Gloucester was present at a Reception to mark the Fifth Anniversary of the foundation of the Asthma Research Council at St James's Palace this evening.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was represented by Major General J. Scott Elliot at the function.

General Sir General E. G. Miles which was held at Connaught Shropshire today.

YORK HOUSE

November 9: The Duke of Kent today launched with the National Research Development Corporation at Kingsgate House, London, Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

Mr Trevor was born in the Republic in 1928 but has lived and worked in Britain for more than twenty years. Last year he was a runner-up for the Booker Prize and won the Whitbread prize for fiction, the Allied Irish Bank's prize for the arts, Mr Paul Keating, the Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland, was present.

On Monday Boisbriand, the Paris

memorial service for the Earl of Antrim will be held at 3 pm today at St James's, Piccadilly.

The Right Rev Sir Frank Woods, former Archbishop of Melbourne, who continues to serve as the Chaplain of the Order of the British Empire, St Paul's Cathedral, at 11.30 am on December 7, in honour and in support of the enthronement of the Right Rev R. W. Dunn as Archbishop of Melbourne, was present.

Mr J. A. Stott, Boisbriand, Paris

and Miss E. J. McGill

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Dr and Mrs K. M. Saunders, of Kentish Flambourne Lane, Fletton, Hempsford, Herefordshire, and Denise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. B. R. Williams, of New Park, Peter Town, Jamaica, West Indies.

Captain N. G. B. Reid and Miss A. Y. Horford

The engagement is announced between Captain Nigel Reid, RAMC, son of the late Mr E. B. Reid and Mrs K. Reid, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Angela, daughter of Major and Mrs T. O. Horford, of The Old Rectory, Long Newton, Tertbury, Gloucestershire.

Mr E. A. Verdon-Roe and Miss G. M. Owens

The engagement is announced between Mr G. E. Verdon-Roe and of Mrs G. E. Verdon-Roe, of Quinta do Falacho, Silves, Algarve, Portugal, and Gay Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Channing-Owens, of 83 Cromwell Road, SW7, and Reliance

Marriage

The Hon. Patrick Fisher and Lady Karen Carnegie

The marriage took place on Saturday, November 5, between the Hon. Patrick Vavasseur Fisher, eldest son of Lord Fisher and of Mrs Deau Haynes, and Lady Karen Carnegie, daughter of the Earl and Countess of Northesk.

Only part of Barnardo's work today is residential. And then it's largely for the handicapped or for children with serious emotional problems. We have four residential schools for physically handicapped children, and five for educationally subnormal and maladjusted children. But there are many other situations where children desperately need help.

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MR CARTER'S OIL PLATFORM

"I remember in this room last May," said President Carter at a recent press conference, "someone asked me if my Administration was all style and no substance. Lately the criticisms have been that there is too much substance and not enough style." Poor Mr Carter. Once the knives start being drawn on an American President there is no fairness. He is suffering from a reaction which frequently sets in when the enthusiastic initiatives of a new Administration come up against the realities of American politics. He has generated a lot of new legislation and it has been too much for Congress. Some of it is now being postponed, and the volatile opinion polls have been recording a less favourable verdict on his performance.

The verdict is only partly justified and need not be taken anywhere near seriously enough to justify the doom-faded prophecies in which some American commentators have indulged. President Carter has had a lot to learn in office. He and his young men from Georgia have handled relations with Congress badly, and he may have made matters worse by deciding to appeal over the head of Congress to public opinion. If he had won his election by a landslide vote this might have worked because Congressmen would need his support more than he needs theirs, but the reverse is true. He ran behind most congressional members of his own party and they have yet to be persuaded that he has overtaken them. He needs their support. He cannot rely on automatic party loyalty or on the old coalitions on which his party used to rest. American politics has become more fluid and Congress has become more assertive. He can win support only by persuasion and he is only now

beginning to learn what this means.

The trouble is that any serious cut in American oil consumption comes up not only against the powerful oil companies but also against the entire American way of life, which is based on cheap and abundant energy for large cars, huge heating and cooling systems for buildings, and a generous use of energy in industry. Moreover, at this stage the problem is simply not visible to most Americans, so that the President's attempt to rally them to the "moral" equivalent of war finds little response. In any case they are themselves their own main enemy, which does not help either. He must therefore rely at least as much on informed political support as on less informed public support. In fact there could hardly be a more difficult issue on which to rally the people against the politicians.

But there is also another factor which the President scarcely mentioned in his original presentation of the energy plan on April 20, and which even now is only creeping rather shyly into his speeches, and that is the interest which the rest of the world must have in this issue. At first he talked almost entirely of maintaining the American standard of living. Now he mentions national security. But America's oil imports are already having a distorting influence on the market, and the international competition for oil in the next decade would have even more damaging effects, which could well include war. To appeal almost solely to the material self-interest of the American people is probably to underestimate them and is anyway uncharacteristic of Mr Carter. Yours,

ERIC MIDWINTER,
Head of Public Affairs Unit,
National Consumer Council, and
Chairman, Advisory Centre for
Education,
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

November 4.

From Mr William J. M. Shelton, MP
for Lambeth, Streatham (Conservative)

Sir I was interested to read the letter signed by a number of distinguished London headmasters, expressing their concern about the low attendance, well below 5 per cent, of parents at elections for parent governors, and drawing a depressing conclusion from this. Only last week I was discussing this situation with the headmaster of a South London school (not one of the signatories of the letter). He told me that 150 parents attended the election meeting which he organised. His school roll is about 1,000, so, given a number of one-parent families and only one parent from a family attending, this is probably above the 10 per cent mark. The election was contested with a number of candidates for the three places.

I happen to know how hard he and his staff have worked to make their PTA a success. For instance, over 800 parents, pupils and teachers were on a one-day tramp out to the Isle of Wight recently, and I am sure the comparatively good attendance at the election meeting is a direct result of enthusiasm, dedication and hard work.

My conclusion is that, as with so many new ventures, the involvement of parents with schools at every level can be made to be successful provided that the will is there. I would indeed be sorry to see the concept of parent governors criticised so easily in the day, before parents have been educated properly in their new role.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM SHELTON,
House of Commons.

STILL THE FISHERMEN'S FRIEND

The news that Britain's fishermen have been excluded from yet another fishing ground because of the rapacious behaviour of one of Britain's partners in the European Community comes, regrettably, as no surprise. For the fishing industry, entry into the EEC has been attended by almost entirely adverse consequences. The latest blow is that Norway has stopped British trawlers from fishing for cod off its northern coast, not because they had exceeded their own quota, but because the French had taken more than the catch they were entitled to, and in doing so reached the total quota laid down for the Community. The amounts involved are relatively small but the incident serves as yet another example of what the British fishing authorities consider to be unfair behaviour by the fishing fleets of the other members of the Community (apart from Ireland), backed by their governments. That mistrust and disappointment is shared by the British Government, which has found its fellow members stubborn and the European Com-

sion unsympathetic. Its efforts to negotiate what are seen as reasonable and equitable terms for all have been met with obstinacy and lack of understanding by all except the Irish.

Mr John Silkin has now been reported as being pleased with an agreement reached earlier this week which establishes the principle that coastal states have the sole right to control fish conservation off their shores. It is doubtful whether he is justified in expressing such optimism. Only 600 tonnes were at stake, and the decision to allow fishermen from Normandy and Picardy to have exclusive fishing rights for herring within four miles of their home ports scarcely binds the Community to allowing Britain its much more substantial claims.

Past experience suggests that neither the Commission nor Britain's seven continental partners will see the decision in the same light as Mr Silkin.

Nevertheless he was right to point to it as a factor to be taken into account in future negotiations. The British Government had been arguing for an exclu-

sive 12-mile fishing belt, and for a preferential zone of between 12 and 50 miles from Britain's coasts. Its demands are justifiable, both on the grounds of effective conservation, to ensure that fish stocks are not depleted to the extent of becoming extinct, and for the economic survival of Britain's beleaguered fishing industry. Recent action by some of the other Community fleets has shown how justified Britain's attitude is, at least on the conservation aspect.

Mr Silkin has argued Britain's case intelligently and forcefully. He has shown no signs of weakening, resolve, and seems determined that the Community's fishing policy will not be the subject of British capitulation.

British public opinion is behind him. He is not being a "bad European" by continuing to press the British case strongly.

On the contrary, if he were not to do so, and the existing proposals of the European Commission were to be adopted, it is possible that in a decade or so the entire EEC pool would be all but fished out. That would be to no country's benefit.

NO AMMUNITION FOR REPUBLICANS

Jubilee year must have been a disheartening time for British republicans, but Mr William Hamilton, as alert and severe an auditor as ever, did manage on Tuesday to make the Queen look as if she had got away with a pay award distinctly in excess of Phase Two principles. Her estimated Civil List expenditure for this calendar year, the Chancellor announced, will be 18 per cent greater than last year's. By extracting this information through a parliamentary question, Mr Hamilton made it appear that he had uncovered a secret, though the estimate for all Civil List payments and related annuities and pensions for this financial year was made public last spring, and there has been no increase in the global sum, which is subject to the same cash limits as other government spending.

The Civil List is not a wage at all, of course; nor is it exactly an expense account. It is meaningless as a guide either to the real cost of the monarchy or to the income of the royal family. It covers some living and professional costs—newspapers but not stationery, garden parties but not state visits,

celebrations have been modest by past standards. It is impossible to set an objective standard for the scale of display appropriate to modern royalty, but there would be no fun in a skimped monarchy, and there is no sign at all of widespread public demand for one. Audience reaction is the only sure guide in such cases.

But audience reaction depends to some extent on the way the accounts are presented. The new Civil List arrangements give no public information about how much of the year's money is to be spent on what. Coupled with the still greater obscurity that surrounds the Queen's untaxed private finances, this factor remains at least a potential source of public misgiving. Much information has been made available from time to time, and it suggests that the Royal household is admirably thrifty. But regular information is absent. Neither personal privacy nor the mystery that Bagshot insisted should surround the throne require, in the case of the Civil List, abandonment of the general principle that the taxpayer should be able to see where his money goes.

she published her own in 1975. Certain inconsistencies found in the English text released by the Foreign Office (and in the Harvard Text) also have been found to exist in other Soviet publications of this period, to be sure, but so also do they appear in other letters of the period similar to the Zinoviev Letter, which are known to be forgeries and which preceded the Zinoviev Letter. And my own conclusions and arguments in respect of the Harvard Text did not rest solely upon these inaccuracies, as Crowe and others may have inferred from newspaper accounts at the time.

The Foreign Office files which have become open during the past five years under the 50-year rule offer much insight about the way in which individuals acted in respect of the Letter and what they believed about it. But as for the

document itself, no further evidence to my knowledge has appeared.

Yours sincerely,
W. E. BUTLER,
Professor of Comparative Law in
the University of London,
Faculty of Laws,
University College London,
48 Endsleigh Gardens, WC1.

Doing without police

From Mr Clive Davies
Sir, The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire is right to advocate self-policing in rural areas. (Your November 4 issue.) But isn't the need for community-based "do-it-yourself policing" even greater in our crime-ridden towns and cities? Yours sincerely,
CLIVE DAVIES,
Department of Sociology,
University of Liverpool.

33 Cadogan Square, SW1.

Electing parent governors

From Dr Eric Midwinter

Sir, A clash of heads—seventeen in all—claims (letter, November 7) that parents are not enthusiastic about parent-governor elections, citing ballots of five per cent in London, and this leads them to question "one of the premises of the Taylor Report".

Years ago, teachers used to assume that when parents failed to attend some school function, this meant that they were apathetic. Since then many teachers, thinking rather more positively than the defeatist seventeen, have re-jigged the question as: what is wrong with our mode of approach and invitation that we have failed to enlist the evident interest of parents? Most of the answers relate to adjusting such approaches to the ordinary life-style of the citizen, and, as a consequence, there have been enormous strides in home-school relations.

Unfortunately, many of these lessons have been forgotten with the advent of parent-governor elections, although one should note the many schools which, by integrating parent-governor elections within a vital and lively general scheme of parent-rapport, have had voting in very high numbers in working class as well as middle class areas.

There is also another factor which the President scarcely mentioned in his original presentation of the energy plan on April 20, and which even now is only creeping rather shyly into his speeches, and that is the interest which the rest of the world must have in this issue.

At first he talked almost entirely of maintaining the American standard of living. Now he mentions national security. But America's oil imports are already having a distorting influence on the market, and the international competition for oil in the next decade would have even more damaging effects, which could well include war.

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Sir I was interested to read the letter signed by a number of distinguished London headmasters, expressing their concern about the low attendance, well below 5 per cent, of parents at elections for parent governors, and drawing a depressing conclusion from this.

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My conclusion is that, as with so many new ventures, the involvement of parents with schools at every level can be made to be successful provided that the will is there. I would indeed be sorry to see the concept of parent governors criticised so easily in the day, before parents have been educated properly in their new role.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM SHELTON,

House of Commons.

Coeducation at Cambridge

From the Prelector of Jesus College, Cambridge

Sir, No more devotee of St Radegund in this College will share Mr Tyndall's apprehension (November 2) that history might repeat itself in the sense he outlined. The saint, aggrieved by the long exclusion of women from the university, could not bear to see the new female intake prancing in the quad. He was not alone in this, and the 19th-century headmaster, Mr G. C. Scott, was equally unhappy.

Mr Tyndall's apprehension was well founded, but that the numbers have increased few white middle-class parents remain apprehensive.

It would have been understandable for him to be worried about the letter without passing it to new colleagues using for it the excuse that there was a growing demand in Cambridge.

But history does tend to move in cycles. Before its foundation in 1946 this College had been an exclusive haven of womanhood for at least 360 years. There followed the impossible ban on women which is now about to miss its quincentenary by only a few years. How long will the mixture last? It is a fair guess that by the year 2496 the women will have gradually ousted the men, and will discipline them from the top, imposed a ban on them.

That will be the appropriate time, rather than now, as Mr Tyndall advocates, for the College to revert to its original name as it enters its second cycle of sexual metamorphosis, only to replace it again, of course, with its present name about the middle of the twenty-first century.

Yours sincerely,

ILYA GERSEKOVITCH,

Jesus College,

Cambridge.

Insuring art for exhibition

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, I should like to add a postscript to Professor Dowdell's plea (November 8) that important temporary exhibitions in leading regional museums, the security arrangements of which have been officially approved, should be relieved of insurance costs by means of government indemnities, as is already the practice with national museums.

The matter of long-term loans of works of art is also relevant. If such a loan is made from a private source to a national museum, as has recently occurred in my own case, a certificate of indemnity is made available. But why should regional public museums of appropriate standing be excluded from this invaluable facility?

Yours sincerely,

DENIS MAHON,

33 Cadogan Square, SW1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Justifying a strike by firemen

From Mr J. Davies

Sir, It was with deep concern that I—serving fireman—read the editorial, in the November 8 edition of *The Times*, entitled "Now the firemen". Comments made in that editorial have moved myself to defend the action forced upon myself and my colleagues throughout the nation.

A little over two years ago, because of the introduction of Phase One of the Government/TUC pay policies, the Interim Report of a National Joint Council Working Party, which sought to evaluate the wider involvement of firemen in fire prevention, was pigeon-holed.

What the Fire Brigades Union's Executive Council has done is to equate that "generality of jobs" comparison referred to in the recent McCarthy report, with average earnings of 20 adult males, then adding 10 per cent to take account of the increased range of skills, responsibilities of modern firemen and the hazards they face.

Applying this formula to the present level of qualified firemen's gross weekly pay of £65.70 would mean an increase of approximately 20 per cent.

At present, to qualify for the qualified fireman's rate of pay, a fireman must have served four years and successfully completed a prescribed training module.

It is my understanding that the Fire Service has been cut by 20 per cent in the last two years due to cutbacks in public spending—there has been no cutback in the workload but an increase.

It is any wonder that the nation's

firemen have finally had to say, "enough is enough". Conscience and public responsibility have been used to suppress reasonable claims too often before.

Yours sincerely,

J. DAVIES.

5 Morewood Close,

Sevenoaks, Kent.

November 8.

From Mr Lulu Ballantyne

Sir, Can Mr Willie Hamilton point to any other single government expenditure of £2m which gives as instant a return as does the investment in the monarchy?

I would guess that more than £2m has been collected by VAT alone on objects sold this year bearing the Queen's portrait. People have been kept in employment (and paid their taxes) to produce, handle and sell these goods and to meet the demands of tourists and visitors. Sales and services have been spread throughout the country.

No government—even by taking 6p off income tax—has discovered how to touch the people who make a nation with the magic that came across so strongly on Jubilee Day.

HM The Queen gives more than any cash columns will ever show.

I am your obedient servant,

LAURA BALLANTYNE,

Auchairne,

Ayrshire.

November 9.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Cross committee calls for tribunals to hear claims of accounting incompetence

By Nicholas Hirst

Accountants should set up tribunals including a lay member to investigate alleged cases of professional incompetence affecting the public interest. This is the main recommendation of an eight-man committee chaired by Lord Cross of Chalsea. It was set up 12 months ago by the English and Scottish Institutes of Chartered Accountants and the Association of Certified Accountants.

Its terms of reference were: "To consider to what extent, if any, the investigatory and disciplinary organizations and powers of the three bodies may require to be changed to enable them to deal both effectively and justly with allegations of unsatisfactory professional work by any member."

Setting up of the Cross committee followed publication of Department of Trade inspectors' reports, which had criticized accountants, coupled with growing public concern over the accountancy profession had an adequate powers to discipline its own members.

The Cross committee divided the problems of professional incompetence into those which involved the public interest through the auditing of public quoted companies, for example; and those such as private client business, which did not. The

report decided there was no need to extend the present disciplinary powers in private cases.

In cases of public interest, the institutes had powers to act over a member who had committed misconduct. Cross considered that this meant "bad behaviour" such as dishonesty which only in extreme cases could include poor workmanship.

The institutes had no express provision in their constitutions to deal with cases of professional incompetence, which nevertheless could have resulted in great loss.

He therefore proposed that there should be tribunals set up to examine such cases, which would normally arise from Department of Trade or similar reports.

Constitutions of the accountancy bodies should be amended accordingly so that the tribunals would have jurisdiction over all accountants, not just auditors, and that the jurisdiction should extend over all corporate bodies where the public interest might be affected, including unit trusts and building societies.

If the tribunals were to find the conduct of a member amounted to misconduct, and that finding was not reversed by any appeal procedure, Cross

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is still hoping that excessive discounting will be curbed through trading agreements drawn up individually between tour operators and agents. But if it became clear at the conference that such agreements would not be comprehensive.

So far only Horizon Midland and Cosmos have undertaken to maintain the same price in every outlet and not to permit an agency to sell at a different price. Even in the other following the conference suggested AFTA, this would not restrict incentive activity carried out by the travel agent.

Dropping of the price maintenance clause from the association's code of practice is one of 16 agreements now abandoned as a result of the new restrictive practices legislation. In return the Office of Fair Trading has undertaken to allow at least a year before it refers the "closed shop" rule—which the association maintains is crucial

Fed to tighten money policy further

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Nov 9

The American Federal Reserve Board has decided to tighten its monetary policies still further. The decision reflects the Fed's continuing concern about the trend of United States inflation and about the recent weakening of the dollar in the foreign exchange markets.

Dr Arthur Burns, Fed chairman, said that he expected the economic expansion to persist with possibly a 4.5 per cent real rate of economic growth in the coming year, but that in this period inflation was likely to rise again by 6 to 6.5 per cent. Firm monetary policies were, therefore, necessary.

He told the Senate's Banking Committee that the inflation of the dollar was adding to the nation's inflation problems and it could also cause "serious international difficulties." He concluded: "We dare not, therefore, be complacent about the current depreciating tendencies of the dollar."

Dr Burns said the Fed had decided to leave its growth target range for M1 unchanged at 4 to 6.5 per cent for the year ahead, but it would lower both the ceiling and base limits of its ranges for M2 and M3 by one half of a percentage

point to 6.5 to 9 per cent for M2 and to 8 to 10.5 per cent for M3.

Dr Burns stressed that "a crucial consideration in lowering the long-term ranges for the broader aggregates was the committee's (the Fed's open market committee) wish to reaffirm its intent of gradually bringing down the growth of the monetary aggregates to rates compatible with reasonable price stability".

Under questioning from Senator Adlai Stevenson of Illinois, Dr Burns stated: "I believe some sort of incomes policy will have to be developed in this country." He said he did not want to elaborate on this at this time in view of the great number of uncertainties now facing businesses and the prospect that discussion of incomes policies will only add to these uncertainties.

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business profits. He said new social security tax increases and legislation to raise the minimum wage would add to production costs, possibly lower consumer spending and increase inflation. He felt that Congress recently had been legislating inflation.

Dr Burns called for permanent tax cuts and for plans by the Congress and the Administration that also involved real cuts in public expenditure. He said that for the full 1978 fiscal year it now appeared that the total Federal Government deficit would be \$69,000m (£38,333m), which was almost \$16,000m greater than the 1977 deficit.

He also pointed out that in the six months to the end of next March the United States Treasury would probably have to borrow about \$10,000m more than it did in the corresponding year earlier.

Dr Burns was confident that the economic recovery would continue, although it was unlikely that unemployment in the year ahead would fall below 6.5 per cent.

He added that the Fed believed the economy was now growing at a faster pace than was seen in the third quarter of this year when real gross national product rose at an annual rate of 3.8 per cent.

Mr Shore outlines his £400m spending plans

By John Huxley

As expected, the bulk of the £400m additional expenditure for the construction and civil engineering industries in 1978-79 announced by the Chancellor last month will go into the building sector, especially housing.

However, in announcing spending details yesterday, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said civil engineering would also benefit from the increased expenditure on roads and some of the other environmental services.

He said that the increases would help the decline in departmental construction programmes and give scope for modest increases in some sectors in 1978-79.

"This will keep these programmes at a steady level and should produce greater stability for the industry."

Mr Shore explained that a large part of the expenditure would be undertaken by local authorities.

"In England, housing will receive about half of the money available, spending having been increased and authorisations to restore some of the 1976 cuts and put the housing capital programme back on to a rising trend, he said.

The breakdown of expenditure is: housing, £150m; other environmental services, £33.5m; health and personal services, £37m; education, £26m; trans-

port, £23m; defence, £8m; trade, £8m; Home Office services, £5m; Property Services Agency, £3.5m; Lord Chancellor's department service, £3m; employment, £1m; energy, £0.7m; agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry, £0.3m; and other public services, £1m.

Programmes within the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland received £7m.

A further £24m has been left unallocated and is available for other purposes.

British Waterways Board will receive £5m to undertake urgent repair and maintenance work, and a further £4m will go on the Urban Programme.

Mr Shore has decided not to introduce any scheme for imposing fees for building regulation applications next year. This means that local authorities in England and Wales will forgo an estimated £2m in revenue.

"I shall, therefore, be allowing local authorities an additional £13m out of the £400m to count as relevant expenditure for the purposes of the rate support grant settlement, which I shall be making shortly."

Reaction from the construction industry to the £400m package has been muted, largely by disappointment that the aid was not being made immediately available.

An interesting aspect of the Amsterdam proposals is that all options traded will be dealt in the domestic currency of the underlying security, thus largely removing the effects of currency fluctuations from traded option movements.

Mr Lamberger claimed that this was in part a reflection of the EOE's determination not to create a gambling casino atmosphere. Commenting on the SEC decision recently to clamp down on options growth following evidence of abuses, Mr Lamberger said: "You can make monkey business out of any business."

The option clearing company expects to complete development work including a computerized settlement system by January and market trials should start during February.

Progress on UK role in European options

From Richard Allen

Amsterdam, Nov 9

A number of potential obstacles to the success of the European Options Exchange, which is scheduled to open in Amsterdam next April, could be removed within a few weeks.

According to Mr E. M. Lamberger, chairman of the EOE, negotiations with the Bank of England concerning British participation in options on the Amsterdam exchange covering domestic United Kingdom stocks have been "positive and cordial."

He said he did not envisage any objections from the Bank as long as the funds involved in transactions on British stock options remained within the London system.

Exchange control restrictions—in particular the surrender rule introduced by the Bank last year—are expected severely to limit United Kingdom interest in international stock options traded in Holland. But the Amsterdam Stock Exchange expects significant London interest in the five British stock options it plans to include in an opening list covering 20 international securities.

The other underlying securities are expected to be made up of five Dutch internationals, including perhaps Unilever, Royal Dutch/Shell and Philips, five United States leaders and five drawn from the rest of Europe.

Although 310 applications for seats on the new exchange have already been received, it is felt that several more will be participants—particularly from overseas—holding back until the articles of association of the EOE have been approved.

Referring to one other potential obstacle, the possible refusal of the American Securities and Exchange Commission to provide the Amsterdam exchange with associate status, Mr Lamberger said that this would not prevent the EOE making a "parallel" market in options covering the same underlying securities.

It is understood that a number of British stockbrokers and merchant banks have shown interest in more than two-thirds of the members of the London Traded Option Users' Association have made written applications.

However, applications to date represent no more than letters of agreement in principle and the real test will come when interested groups are asked to put up cash for seats after incorporation of the clearing company.

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BCI borrows £53m

British Steel has borrowed £52.7m from the European Investment Bank to help meet the cost of the £220m expansion scheme at the Runcorn works at Mowbray.

The loan, for 12 years at 8.75 per cent, is the biggest ever made by the bank.

Sir James set to end Britannia Arrow reign

By Bryan Appleby

Sir James Goldsmith seems ready to end his reign as chairman of Britannia Arrow Holdings, formerly Slater, Walker Securities, after two years in a board that had set out to do in October 1975.

An announcement about the "further restructuring of the board" would be made as soon as it was appropriate to do so.

Sir James expects the company, now largely an insurance and investment management group, to break even in 1978 following the losses announced in the first six months of this year of £18m, against £6.3m last year.

The two directors who are leaving the board at yesterday's annual meeting, Sir James said the directors had largely achieved what they had set out to do in October 1975.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Accountants and the public interest

The Cross Report on the disciplinary procedures of the major United Kingdom accountancy bodies has put the profession in a very tight corner. Suggestions for improving the monitoring of complaints of inadequate work for private clients are not contentious and are likely to be accepted with alacrity by the institutes, but in considering the question of professional competence involving the public interest, Cross enters much steeper ground. For if the solution he proposes proves not to be workable the alternative could be a statutory authority appointed by the Government.

So to some extent accountants risk losing their valued independence. But there is a growing understanding that the problems of self-regulation for a professional body, which provides the most important check against fraud and managerial error on behalf of the investing public is different both in kind and complexity from self-regulation of the City's markets.

The Cross Report suggests the accountancy bodies set up a tribunal with appeal machinery, including a layman with financial knowledge, to examine bad workmanship which has come to its attention as a result of a Department of Trade Inspectors' or similar reports. If misconduct is established, the case may be dealt with by the institutes' existing constitutional rules, but if professional incompetence only is found, the tribunal would publish an appropriate censure statement.

Considering the statutory alternative, Cross says it would be illogical to set up any statutory tribunal whose jurisdiction was confined solely to accountants, as there may be many others who have had a hand in incompetence resulting in the public's loss.

The guardians of the financial community are not accountants generally, but accountants acting as auditors. An accountant who is a director is in the same position as a lawyer who is a director, the fact of his professional background is irrelevant. The public is concerned that the guardians it asks to check accounts, checks them properly, and when they fail to do so are seen to be punished.

The attractions of a limited statutory authority to do this may be too great for either the profession or the Department of Trade to ignore.

J Sainsbury

Feeling the Tesco squeeze

Guarded comments from Sainsbury on the current trading outlook can only strengthen the views of those who think it is time to be selling food retailers' shares while they still command a premium rating. Sainsbury's own results are entirely respectable. Sales are up by 24 per cent to £406m, profits are

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MARKET REPORTS

Eurobond prices
mid(day indicators)

US STRAIGHTS Bid Offer

Australia	100	101
Bel. Canada	75	108
Bowater	100	101
British Gas	100	101
CNAF B	100	101
DSM	100	101
Elf Aquitaine	100	101
Elf B	100	101
Elf S	100	101
Eso	100	101
Humberley	100	101
Macmillan	100	101
Midland Imp. Fin.	100	101
North Amer. Black T	100	101
PEB	100	101
SE	100	101
Shell	100	101
Soc. March 1	100	101
Standard	100	101
Sulphur	100	101
United	100	101
Wit. W.	100	101
YTL	100	101
Zinc	100	101

Metals boosted
by hopes of
Tokyo buying

All base metals were given a boost on the London Metal Exchange yesterday morning, under the leadership of copper and zinc, based on a suggestion that Japan could make advance purchases of these metals for storage in LME warehouses as a part of government plans to boost imports.

Industry sources in Tokyo commented on reports circulating on the LME on Tuesday that the Japanese Government is seeking to buy 100,000 tonnes of copper and 80,000 tonnes of zinc.

Officials at the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry said they were unable to comment on the London reports. Admittedly, such a deal could be undertaken but they might require some modifications in Japanese foreign exchange control laws.

Metal industry leaders called in by the government to advise had told them advance purchases through the LME would be one possibility, as well as similar purchases through direct negotiations with producing countries, again for temporary storage outside Japan.

The sources said that to their knowledge neither the industry leaders nor government officials were able to determine on the basis of this way.

COPPER Cash wire bars quoted in London were £1,100 per tonne.

Midweek, cash wire bars were quoted at £1,090 per tonne.

DEUTSCHE MARKS Sales: 100,000 metric tons.

FRANCE Sales: 100,000 metric tons.

US CONVENTIONAL off.

Aluminum £1,090

Brussels £1,090

Bremen £1,090

Edinburgh £1,090

FINANCIAL NEWS

EMI chief says that US decline only a moment of market pause

By Desmond Quigley
EMI's world medical electronics business is unlikely to show a greater volume in the current financial year than in 1976/77, Sir John Read, chairman, says in his statement in the latest annual report.

The main problem is the decline in business in North America, the most important market, without a sufficiently strong growth in other markets to compensate.

Sir John comments that this is "a moment of market pause, allowing for essential consolidation before an upturn in North America takes place together with continuing growth in other international markets".

The group holds half the world market for brain and body scanners (computed tomography scanners) and cumulative orders have exceeded 850. Some 700 have already been delivered, with North America taking over 460.

However, last year the United States Government stepped up measures to regulate expenditure on capital equipment by



Sir John Read, chairman.

J. Crowther races out of the red

After two years of losses, the Huddersfield-based John Crowther Group is turning the corner. In the first half of this year, it more than doubled its trading profit from £72,000 to £191,000. Turnover went up from £2.19m to £2.75m.

Although depreciation and bank interest were heavier, Crowther produced a pre-tax profit of £24,000, against a loss last time of £64,000. While saying that the turnaround has been gratifying, the board reports that current conditions have been influenced by the mid-year strike.

The group makes clothes from wool and synthetic fibres, and it supplies processed synthetic fibres to other manufacturers. Diversification, particularly into products the group has not previously developed, is encouraging.

Blue Bell jeans wrangle to go on

Blue Bell, the manufacturer of Wrangler jeans, has issued a statement regarding its law suit with Levi Strauss in America. It states:

"A Federal District Judge ruled in San Francisco on November 3 that Blue Bell's proposed use of a free floating label on the right rear patch pocket of jeans, would infringe Levi Strauss and the company's trade mark rights."

This ruling has had no adverse effect on Blue Bell's sales, profits or financial position because no garments bearing the much-publicised free floating label have ever been sold or manufactured for sale by Blue Bell.

"It is emphasized that this ruling relates to the United States only and has no effect on any existing or planned production by Wrangler outside America. In no way does this affect the rights of the Wrangler trade mark which has been and will continue to be a trademark of quality Blue Bell jeans."

"The suit by Levi Strauss was started more than seven years ago. It alleged that Blue Bell violated their rights by using a free-floating label on an inset pocket of slacks."

Blue Bell has been vindicated in its position that a free-floating label showing its trade mark on a rear inset pocket is not an infringement of any rights of Levi Strauss.

However, the court ruled that Levi Strauss does have trade mark rights in a free-floating label, limited to the right rear patch pocket. Blue Bell disagrees with this portion of the decision and will be appealing."

Autopista-Kuwait bond

A 5m Kuwaiti dinar (about £2.5m) 10-year bond, issued by Autopista Vasco-Argonesa, a consortium, Espanola, has been priced at par bearing 8.75 per cent annually, the syndicate manager, Kuwaiti Investment Co. says. Guaranteed by the Spanish Government, the

Aeroservices offshoot sold by Winn

Another sale has been made by Winn Industries, which sold its international container business for £625,000 earlier this year. Now it has sold its Aeroservices Engineering offshoot to Grawemeyer. The price was £74,000, payable as to £19,000 cash on completion, £5,000 cash on December 31 and the balance in 12 equal monthly instalments, starting on January 31.

The deferred sum attracts interest at the rate of 2½ per cent above Barclays base rate. At completion, £60,000 due to be paid has been repaid by Aeroservices.

In 1976 Aeroservices made a profit of £10,000, but in the first six months of this year suffered a loss of £16,000.

Winn covers engineering, building and property.

SEFCROS
Next year to show improved results, although consolidation, development and integration are board's first priority.

ALLIED PLANT
Board is restructuring group's capital to give the group greater stability.

MORTONIA INT.
Jump in pre-tax profits for year to July 31 from £2.13m to £2.4m compares with forecast of at least £2.5m made in May.

Briefly

RIGHTWISE-DEUNDI

Board of Deundi advises shareholders to reject Rightwise offer. It proposed to raise dividends from 3.25p to 10p net.

NORSK HYDRO

Group issuing 550m of 5-year notes with annual coupon of 7½ per cent at price of 99 per cent.

COURTNEY POPE

Chairman says a further significant advance will be made in current year.

JENTIQUE (HOLDINGS)

Chairman's annual report says the trading conditions are still difficult, particularly in furniture division, but there are definite signs of improvement.

ELLENROAD RING N.H.L.

Board says future remains uncertain. After adding a temporary employment subsidy from Government of £57,000, pre-tax profit is £23,500 for half year to October 31 against £64,000.

CATER RYDER

Board says group made a "substantial" profit for six months to end-October.

BABCOCK & WILCOX

For \$A2.5m, group has bought C & I Industries, Sydney as part of a five-year development programme in Australia.

Second half likely to be poor at Readicut

In the current climate of uncertainty the board of Readicut does not expect the second half to match last year's although a satisfactory result for the full year is still expected. Last year the group increased pre-tax profits to £64.7m from £59.4m.

The balance sheet deteriorated during the year with the level of borrowings to shareholders' funds rising from 60 per cent to 91 per cent. This reflected a sharp increase in loans and borrowings, and in goodwill.

The debt/equity ratio would have exceeded 1:1 but for the acquisition of Development Securities, an investment company, which injected £24.1m in cash into the group.

Last year the proportionate profit contribution from the various divisions of EMI were little changed on the previous year with music continuing to dominate profits with 43 per cent, while electronics, radio and television equipment slipped back 4 per cent to 36 per cent.

EMI, which is concentrating heavily on its medical electronics side, has made a marked decline in the rate of new orders being placed for scanners.

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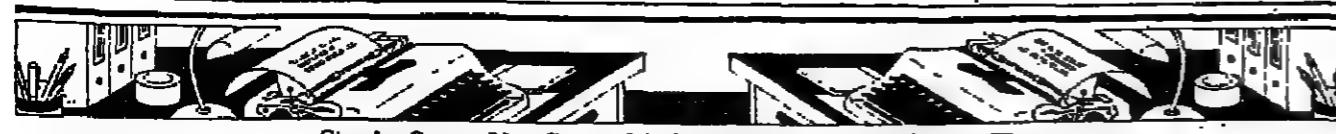


Stock Exchange Prices

Gold shares prominent

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 31. Dealings End, Nov 11. § Contango Day, Nov 14. Settlement Day, Nov 22.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days



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Fun-loving, determined 20-year-old to join the creative department of this leading Ad Agency. No Agency experience a must. £20,000 p.a. negotiable.

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RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING

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A Senior position in a friendly and busy environment.

PA/SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR

LEADING FIRM OF LLOYD'S BROKERS

CITY
This vacancy will appeal to well-organised and lively secretaries, with good skills and a minimum of 2 years' working at senior level, able to co-ordinate the work of Directors, will be responsible for correspondence, arranging meetings and lunches, sense of humour and a liking for a busy and stimulating atmosphere, we would like to hear from you now. Salary up to £4,000, free lunches and generous holiday allowances and other fringe benefits. Applications in strict confidence under reference PASS975/TT will be forwarded unopened to our Client, unless you list preference for which they should not be forwarded in a covering letter marked for the attention of the Security Manager:

CAMPBELL-JOHNSON RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING LIMITED, 36 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH, OR TELEPHONE 01-588 3587.

Senior Secretaries £4,000

Vacancies exist within our Corporate Studies and Finance Departments for two secretaries with proven secretarial skills (100/50) and 'A' level standard of education who have worked at senior secretarial level.

Secretary—Corporate Studies

will provide a full secretarial service to the Departmental Manager, assist with the compilation of special reports, including the use of computer terminals for the production of tables and graphs which the candidate will need to be literate and act as administrative secretary to a committee. This position will be particularly attractive to candidates who have a knowledge of the working of the city market.

Secretary—Finance

will provide a full secretarial service to the Controller and members of his group. The successful candidate will be given the responsibility of supervising 2/3 secretaries within the department and co-ordinating typing and reprographic work.

4 weeks' annual holiday, non-contributory pension scheme, luncheon vouchers, interest free season ticket loan. Salaries will be reviewed in March.

Please write or telephone Mrs. Lucy (01-588 2355 ext. 8123), The Council of the Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP.



SECRETARY/PA TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF A MAJOR TOUR OPERATOR

We are looking for an experienced and confidential secretary to provide a secretarial and administrative service to the Managing Director.

The ability to work on one's own is important as the successful applicant will be required to attend to all correspondence during the Managing Director's absences overseas.

The successful applicant is likely to be aged at least 25 years, well educated and with an interest in travel. The salary will be in the region of £3,500 plus bonuses and excellent fringe benefits associated with a major tour operator.

Please write for an application form, quoting Ref: PA 730, to

Thorntons Baker Personnel Services Limited
Fairfax House,
Fulwood Place,
London WC1V 6DW

PRIVATE SECRETARY/P.A. TO INTERNATIONAL GROUP CHAIRMAN

A unique opportunity to acquire a challenging, executive position combined with a graciously furnished company flat in Central London. Emphasis is on the effective combination of commercial and secretarial skills, coupled with the ability to work equally well on your own initiative and responsibility, or as part of a team.

You should be fluent in at least one foreign language, have a clean driver's licence and be free to travel anywhere at short notice. Main areas of direct involvement are new acquisitions and new product developments.

Preferred age group 30-40. Salary by negotiation.

Please telephone 288 1673 any morning between 8 and 10 a.m.

YOUNG EXECUTIVE REQUIRED

Point of sale company London (N. of River) is looking for a young Executive with personality to assist and eventually take over duties of director. Knowledge of accountancy—qualifications desirable, but not essential.

Salary negotiable according to previous experience and age.

Please send brief details to:

Box 0013 K The Times

CONVEYANCING
ASSISTANT/SEC (S/b)
Point of sale company
in first-class
international law firm, W.C. 2.
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/
MARKET RESEARCHER
For research organization
GEES RECRUITMENT
408 5561

GERMAN/ENGLISH
Bilingual Secretary
required by partner in firm of
international lawyers in
W.C. 2. Competitive position.
Good salary. For further information telephone
Mr. Taylor, 404 5561.

SECRETARY/P.A.
Bilingual French/English
required for Divisional Manager
of U.K. subsidiary of French
firm. Work in London office.
Position involves shorthand and
typewriting, admin. work and liaison
with customers and sales force.
Good salary. For further information telephone
Mr. Taylor, 404 5561.

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO SENIOR PARTNER

E.C.3

We are seeking a well educated personable Secretary with good qualifications. The duties will include office administration, liaison with clients and personal work at senior management level. The ideal applicant will be aged between 27 to 33 and will view the appointment as a long term position with a starting salary of £2,000 per annum.

The successful applicant must be prepared to work to a flexible time table.

Please telephone Mrs. Read
01-626 9081

FRANKFURT
Experienced
Audio Secretaries
Required for varied and
interesting work in a
large German office
Position involves shorthand and
typewriting, admin. work and liaison
with customers and sales force.
Good salary. For further information telephone
Mr. Taylor, 404 5561.

ROOM AT THE TOP
£3,500
Part-time position for capable
PA/Secretary. Complete check
up to young Board Director.
Luxurious riverside offices.
Self-motivated and able to
work under pressure and on
one's own initiative. Good
humour essential, remaining
calm when all around is
chaos.
Please telephone Mrs. Clark or
Mr. Taylor, 404 5561.

AN ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITY EXISTS

Confidential Secretary

with administrative abilities who is keen to expand his or her range of capabilities. He/she will work directly for the Director of a well-established company. A confidential nature concerned with the company's development. The position is successful and expanding, situated in W.C. 1, is about to launch its new pension scheme. The person selected will be involved in the administration procedures associated with its operation. A view to assuming management responsibility in this area. Salary will not be less than £3,500 p.a.

Please apply in writing to the Personnel Manager,
OCOTOPUS BOOKS LTD
88 Grosvenor St, London W1X 9DA

£4,700 CAN YOU ACCOUNT FOR A CHANGE?

We have several Partner-level vacancies on our books for competent Secretaries to work for Chartered Accountants. The work involves normal secretarial duties—emphasis is definitely NOT on schedule typing! Areas ranging from N.W. London to E.G. 4. Salaries are around £3,500 negotiable.

LONDON CAREERS

01-794 0202

ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO GROUP ECONOMIST

Do you match up to our rather unusual job?

The Thomson Organisation Ltd. is looking for someone to join a small head office team to combine economic analysis and research with some secretarial work. Assisting the Group Economist you will be involved in collecting and processing financial and marketing data and analysis of economic and market trends.

A positive interest in economics is essential and you need to be numerate. Ideally you will be an economics graduate and/or will have had some experience of economic analysis and information gathering work. Accurate typing is important and shorthand is desirable. The position offers development possibilities.

The company, whose interests include Publishing, Travel and North Sea Oil, is located in pleasant offices close to Bond Street Tube.

Benefits include generous salary, L.V.s. and 5 weeks' holiday.

For further information please ring or write to Mrs J. S. Hughes, 01-492 0321, ext. 26.

Administrative Assistant Personnel

REMPLOY LIMITED, the government sponsored company which employs 8,000 disabled people in 87 factories, invites applications for the post of Administrative Assistant to the Personnel Director.

The successful candidate—male or female—will assist the Personnel Director in the administration of the departmental personnel and the co-ordination of all aspects of the work for a total staff of over 10,000 people. The post will entail extensive liaison work both within the department and the company at all levels and the handling of paperwork. Some travelling is involved.

Candidates should ideally have had senior secretarial experience followed by a period in a responsible post in a large personnel department. A good standard of education, possibly to degree standard, is essential. The post requires a good knowledge of office work, attention to detail and total discretion. It is unlikely that anyone under 35 will have the necessary maturity for this post.

Salary will be negotiable according to experience. A car is provided. Benefits include 25 days' annual leave, contributory pension scheme and free life assurance.

Concise applications, with details of age, experience, qualifications and present salary, should be sent in confidence to:

Personnel Director,
REMPLOY LIMITED,
415 Edgware Road, Cricklewood, London, NW2 8LR.

THE NATIONAL COMPUTING CENTRE LIMITED

SECRETARY

We are looking for a competent man or woman to work in our London Office.

Duties will include normal correspondence, travel arrangements and some administrative duties associated with sales and liaison with member organisations.

Candidates will have sound secretarial skills and previous office experience. Pleasant modern offices (nearest tube—Chancery Lane) and good conditions of service.

Salary: Up to £3,350 (inclusive of all supplements).

Please apply with full details to the Personnel Manager, The National Computing Centre Limited, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1PU, or telephone Mrs. J. Fleming, 01-353 4875, for application form or interview appointment.

Chairman's Secretary

UP TO £5,000 P.A.

The Chairman and Chief Executive of a large and successful public company seeks a secretary who has the ability and personal qualities to do a demanding job often under pressure.

As the Chairman is involved in all aspects of the company's business and has a full range of outside commitments and private interests, the work is varied and interesting.

If you have experience of working at a high level on company and private matters and are seeking a change

RING 01-821 8772.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Young Managing Director of International Contracting company requires a responsible PA/Secretary. Perfect knowledge of English and French with Italian also. Must work in London and at Head Office in the Gulf area. Must be prepared to spend time travelling with him throughout the Middle East, Europe and United States.

Approximate age between 25 and 35.

Salary negotiable with many fringe benefits.

Please send c.v. preferably with photograph, to 94 Park Street, London W1Y 3HJ.

A PERSONAL
SECRETARY

required for the publishing manager of a Mayfair solicitors' office. Duties include secretarial, brief preparation and liaison with clients and legal firms. Good knowledge of shorthand and typing essential. Good telephone and computer skills. Good organisational and administrative ability. Good command of English language. Good knowledge of law and legal terminology. Good knowledge of computers and word processing. Good command of English language. Good knowledge of law and legal terminology. Good organisational and administrative ability. Good command of English language. Good knowledge of computers and word processing.

Age over 30. Please hand write your c.v. and attach photo. Send to:

K. E. Goldsmith
Family Doctor
Publications,
British Medical
Association,
B.M.A. House,
Tavistock Square,
London WC1R 8JP,
or phone 01-337 9721.

REMBARLE
Recruitment Consultants
31 Berkeley Street, W.1

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask that you check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified Queries Department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

Those who now regard their blue in this issue as faded, should send a copy to us.

1977

BIRTHS

BARNHAM.—On Nov. 8 in Hong Kong, to George and Oliver, a son, 1 lb. 10 oz., 4 weeks.

CANTON.—On Nov. 1, a son, 4 lb. 12 oz., 1 week, to Mr. and Mrs. David and Linda, in Canton, China.

EDWARD.—On Nov. 10, a son, new Elder and Mrs. Edward

McKEE.—On Nov. 11, a son, Christopher, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward McKee, 100 Grosvenor Gardens, London, W1.

MAURICE.—On Nov. 11, a son, 7 lb. 11 oz., in Brighton, to Brian and Linda, and their daughter, Linda, and Brian's mother, Mrs. Barbara, and Brian's wife, Linda, and Christopher.

WILLIAM.—On Nov. 11, a son, William, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Linda, and their daughter, Linda, and Christopher, and Brian's mother, Mrs. Barbara, and Brian's wife, Linda, and Christopher.

THOMAS.—On Nov. 11, a son, 7 lb. 11 oz., in London, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, and their daughter, Linda, and Christopher.

MAURICE.—On Nov. 11, a son, 7 lb. 11 oz., in London, to Mr. and Mrs. Maurice and Linda, and Christopher, and Brian's mother, Mrs. Barbara, and Brian's wife, Linda, and Christopher.

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Motoring

Special police unit cuts accident rate

impressive results, including a 25 per cent reduction in accidents, are being made by the Metropolitan Police for work of its Accident Prevention Unit which was set up six years ago to deal with the capital's "black spots". The rationale behind the unit is that 10 per cent of accidents in the Metropolitan Police District happen on only 1 per cent of the 8,787 miles of road and nearly three-quarters take place at junctions. In some cases, the black spot can be remedied by road improvements: the unit concentrates on those where improvements cannot be made immediately.

It has eight teams, each comprising traffic patrol officers under the command of a sergeant. All members are qualified vehicle examiners and have special knowledge of traffic patrol and accident procedures.

The most effective way to police black spots is an intensive two-week operation, covering morning and evening rush hours. Each team has six two-linked motor cycles and a van which can be used as a temporary office at the site and which also draws attention to the police presence.

The idea is not so much to catch on-the-goers, although flagrant breaches of traffic law are pursued through the courts, as to advise and warn road users about their behaviour. Last year, for example, more than 22,000 summonses or examples of poor road use were dealt with by the unit, of which 20,000 were resolved by a warning or advice.

Studies have shown that there is a dramatic improvement in road behaviour at places visited by the unit during the operational fortnight and two weeks afterwards. Perhaps more important, over the following year there has been an average reduction of nearly a quarter in the number of accidents at these locations.

Black spots are discovered from detailed reports submitted by police stations on every personal injury accident in their area. The information is used by an accident intelligence section which prepares a "league table" of the bad sites, based on the number of accidents occurring in relation to the volume of traffic.

This helps to put the problem into perspective. Hyde Park Corner, for instance, has an annual injury accident rate of 50 to 60. Bearing in mind a million of vehicles which use it, the risk may not be great.

At a smaller junction with 10 accidents a year, the unit does not expect as many with fewer than eight accidents a year.

The work of the unit goes beyond fixing a black spot and speaking to road users. It also studies the site and, where relevant, makes suggestions for proving road signs, the phasing of traffic signals, sight-lines and the layout of the junction or section of road.

The improvement in flexibility and acceleration is only marginal but, con-



The Citroen GS—still a leader in its field.

Many suggestions to improve traffic flow and help public safety have been made by the team and the majority have been accepted and implemented.

Scotland Yard's computers disclose that, in six months of operation, the officers of the unit have covered 1,152 locations and warned or advised 1,215,401 motorists and pedestrians.

They have reported another 24,046 cases for proceedings, issued 25,532 fixed penalty tickets, removed 1,046 vehicles causing serious obstruction or danger, and made 993 arrests.

During 1972, the unit's first operational year, the estimated saving to the community based on the cost of road accidents was £546,000. With inflation the present savings could be double that figure.

The need for initiatives like the accident prevention unit is underlined by the last accident and casualty statistics. In London, in the first eight months of the year, accidents were up 6 per cent and casualties up 5.6 per cent, compared with a year ago.

However, the rise in motor cycle accidents, which have gone up by 20 per cent in each of the past two years, seems to be slowing down and has fallen to 7.4 per cent this year. Even so, these accidents now account for one in four of all accidents involving personal injury.

Police research suggests that in a large number of cases, the rider was not directly responsible for the accident. Scotland Yard feels that many, if not most, lorry drivers have not yet adjusted to the growing volume of two-wheeler traffic since the oil crisis.

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The improvement in flexibility and acceleration is only marginal but, con-

sidering the size of the engine, the car is quite nippy, with a 0 to 60 mph time of about 16 seconds and a top speed of 93 mph. For most of the time performance is quite adequate and falls short only when there is a need to overtake quickly from a low speed.

The engine, an air-cooled flat-four cylinder unit, gives the feeling that it will run for ever. It does sound busy at times and low gearing gives about 4,000 rpm at 70 mph in top; but it is never harsh and the worst that happens is a loud hum.

The GS set new standards for a light car which was launched in 1970 and I would say that one has yet been beaten.

The outstanding feature is the ride comfort, based on a gas and oil hydro-pneumatic suspension system which not only soaks up the bumps as they did not exist but adjusts automatically to the load carried. Typically soft French seats enhance the feeling of travelling in a favourite armchair.

The corollary of a soft ride is handling that some might regard as soggy, with prodigious bodyroll and marked understeer when taking corners fast.

Those who prefer the ultra-nut feel of, say, the Alfa Romeo Alfetta, will not like the GS. The roadholding is good. It is however smooth and will forgive many a driver who misjudges speed on a sharp bend. I find the GS enormous fun to drive but concede that passengers might not be so enthusiastic.

The all-round disc brakes are excellent, a mere touch giving a sure and progressive response, and the steering very precise, although a little heavy and low geared for parking. The gearbox has a spring action and is, on the whole, pleasant to use but liable to be sticky first thing in the morning.

The front-wheel drive layout allows maximum passenger and luggage space inside. A four-door car with a compact overall length of 134 ft, it seats up to five people and there is no transmission tunnel to get in the way of the middle passenger in the back. There is also an unusually big boot, square and unobstructed and with a lid reaching down to the floor.

Rake and reach adjustment for the front seats ensures a good driving position and visibility is helped by the generous window area. The ventilation system gives good flow of air, even at low speed. My only grumble about the controls is that the choke button, which is said to improve miles per gallon in town driving by 25 per cent (according to the official French Government test figures).

In practical terms, where once the car might have given 25 mpg in town, it now gives 30 mpg or more and although touring consumption has not been affected to the same extent, careful driving should give at least 35 mpg.

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GUY SALMON

Portsmouth Road, Thundersley, Essex, SS9 2RZ. Tel: 0395 4222.

NEW: Jaguar 2.0 Automatic. Metallic brown, beige vinyl, blue hide, cassette, radio, electric windows, sunroof, 50,000 miles. £7,250.

77 Alfa Romeo Alfetta 2000 GT. Black leather, 16,000 miles. £3,500.

77 Austin Martin V8. Automatic. Air, radio, leather, 17,000 miles. £13,500.

77 Fiat 128. Silver Shadow. Silver vinyl, dark blue hide, 20,000 miles. £2,000.

77 Ford Capri 3000 GT. Black vinyl roof, 12,000 miles. £7,950.

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HOME NEWS

Rail fares to rise by average of 14½ per cent in January but commuters in the South-east to pay more

By Michael Baily
Transport Correspondent
Commuters in the South-east, will again bear the brunt of rail fare rises on January 1.

Their tickets will go up by an average of 16 per cent compared with 14½ per cent for all rail passengers. However, the Price Commis-

sion, which yesterday announced approval for the day to hold the January fare level for as long as possible, said that delay would adversely affect its finances, gave a warning that it was particularly concerned about the above-average increases in commuter fares, notably in the South-east, and said it would continue to investigate them.

"We shall be examining the efficiency of British Rail's passenger services and why the increases are weighted against commuters. As a result we may recommend that this should not happen in the future," the commission said.

No fare will rise by more than a fifth as a result of the commission's intervention. Fares on some inter-city routes where services have improved, such as those where high-speed trains are used, will go up by more than 14½ per cent.

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Last year's government committee said the £30m loss on those services should be eliminated by 1981, necessitating rises of 1½ per cent on top of inflation until then. But the transport policy White Paper in June this year took a softer line, proposing that commuters should have a period of years in which to adjust to the rises.

Unless British Rail can get higher subsidies, which seems unlikely, it will always be required to look first to the commuters in the south-east for higher fares, because they are the nearest it has to captive customers.

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A helmet worn by Baron Manfred von Richthofen, in the First World War, was presented to the RAF museum at Hendon yesterday. Air Commodore Ferdinand ("Freddie") West, VC (left) received it from the present baron before a new portrait of the "Red Baron" by Henry Campbell.

Mrs Thatcher would call for resignation

Continued from page 1

There are some, well at least two, who are still very acid about the whole thing, but there is not the concerted, organized opposition that there was last session.

It is not easy to judge whether the confidence of the Labour whip is justified in the absence of the imposition of the confidence issue. Mr Callaghan's friends believe the Prime Minister said it all in his party conference admittance at Brighton when he emphasized that the Cabinet would expect the Bills to be fully supported by members of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

It is precisely because that plusing dodges the issue of the Government's survival that the Government's Labour colleagues believe they can get away with voting against the Government without bringing the Government down and without discipline for themselves.

Mrs Thatcher believes Mrs. Pym raised Labour's backs in suggesting that whatever the Commons did, the "other place" might have "an awful lot of amendments" that the Commons might never debate.

Obviously, Mr. Pym responded to Labour grunts that he hoped Mr. Pym was "not going to threaten us" with the Lords.

Parliamentary report, page 6

NUT denies change in Burnham

The National Union of Teachers denied yesterday that its representation on the Burnham Committee was being considered by Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

On Wednesday, Mr. Terence Casey, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said he was complaining about the NUT's overall majority on the committee. He said the NUT had 16 seats and the seven other teacher organizations had 12.

Mr. Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said yesterday that Mr. Williams had told the unions that she had not asked the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to examine the representation of the different teacher organizations on Burnham.

Mr. Jarvis claimed a union membership of 100,000. Mr. Jarvis said an independent survey carried out by the Schools Council for 1976 showed that the in-service teacher membership for England and Wales of the NUT was 60,000 and that for the NUT was 22,500.

Mr. Jarvis accused Mr. Casey of making irresponsible and unfounded statements. "He shows all the frenzy of someone who realizes he is miles behind in the membership stakes."

Mr. Peter Hunter, an Australian, was accused of permitting

Kitson warning 'nonsensical'

A warning by Mr. Alex Kitson, a member of the Labour Party's national executive, broadcast by Moscow Radio, that a return of a Conservative government in Great Britain would restart the cold war was described by Mr. John Davies, the Conservative foreign affairs spokesman, as "nonsensical".

Mr. Kitson has been criticised for other remarks he made in a speech during last week's celebrations in the Soviet Union to mark the 35th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

According to a BBC transcript, Mr. Kitson, a national officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, when interviewed on Moscow Radio on November 5, said it would be up to the trade union movement and the British Labour movement to ensure peaceful coexistence established in the last 12 years between Labour and the Soviet Union and the problems

we face as a result, our purpose would be to seek to have a dialogue with them and work as far as we can towards rational living arrangements with them."

Mr. Kitson also told the Soviet radio audience that what had happened in the Soviet Union had had an impact, a serious impact, on the British working people, and I would say to their advantage".

The motion expresses the House's entire approval of any arrangement that would be possible to enable Mr. Kitson to reside permanently in the country of his preference in exchange for the right to emigrate for one of the many deserving Russian dissidents and persons denied that right."

Mr. Davies said: "It is about as nonsensical as his other remarks in Russia. Margaret Thatcher and I have made it clear that while having a good deal of criticism in offer about the major areas build-up of the Soviet Union and the problems

of the Soviet Union, we are to be broadcast in order to win more people to our side."

Mr. Adrian Whitfield, for the Labour Party, said: "Mr. Hunter had stipulated that he was to be named only as a co-designer of surgery equipment and not as a dental practitioner. Because his head was turned, his judgment was poor. Because he was flattered, he behaved in a thoroughly stupid way. Bordering at times on carelessness."

Mr. Hunter, who works with 10 assistants and has 30,000 patients at his surgery in Sunmara Avenue, Acton, London, denied allowing his name to be broadcast in order to win more people to his side.

Mr. Peter Boydell, QC, for the committee, alleged that Mr. Hunter's earnings rose 68 per cent after the television programme.

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